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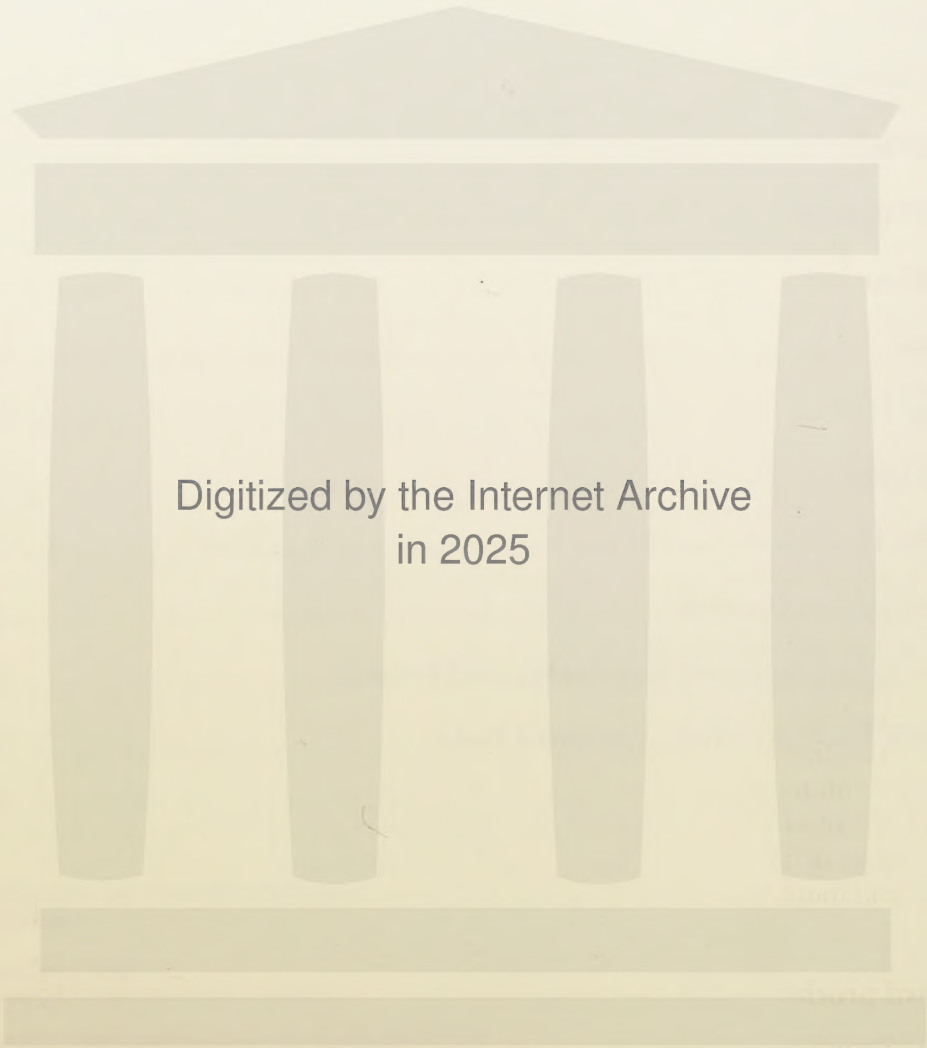
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Introduction

The word of God

The Scriptures speak of the word of God as light and lamp, imperishable seed, spiritual food and drink, healing balm, cleansing fire. The word sustains life, produces faith, strengthens hope, and inflames love. As the Bible attests, the word of God created the world and all living things. The word of the Lord liberated the Hebrew people from slavery and sustained them on their journey to the promised land. Throughout the history of Israel, this word inspired the judges and spoke to the prophets. In time, the great acts of God's mercy were written down and then proclaimed in the daily and weekly gatherings of the Jewish people. Through an annual cycle of lessons, the Hebrew Scriptures were read, sung, and interpreted in communal worship.

The word among us

"Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son" (Hebrews 1:1-2). In the worship of his people, Jesus read the ancient scriptures and interpreted them anew: "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing" (Luke 4:21). In his own life, he proclaimed the good news of salvation in word and deed. To his disciples on the road, the risen Lord interpreted in all the scriptures the things concerning himself. In breaking open the word, he gave himself as the bread of life. Indeed, for the early Christian community, Jesus himself was the living Word to be proclaimed and interpreted in new places among new people. "We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life" (1 John 1:1).

The word proclaimed in worship

When the Scriptures are proclaimed in the worshiping assembly today, the living Word continues to speak to his disciples. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, the risen Christ is truly present when the Scriptures are read. Through the ministry of readers, the written word becomes a lively, spoken word addressed to all who listen with faith.

Gathered around the table of God's word, the church follows Christ's pattern of reading and interpreting the Scriptures, so that when the holy book is opened and

read, Christ speaks anew this living and active word. In the hearing of this word the church is sustained in faith, drawn to the font and holy supper, and strengthened for witness in the world.

The proclamation of the word

In various ways the word of God is proclaimed in the liturgy by the worshiping assembly and its ministers. In particular, the word is proclaimed in the biblical readings (the Hebrew Scriptures, the New Testament letters, and the Gospels); in the singing of the psalms, hymns, and acclamations surrounding the readings; and in preaching.

The proclamation of the Gospel in reading and preaching is the high point of the word service. The other readings illuminate this central reading while the psalms, hymns, and acclamations offer musical responses to the readings. Because of the centrality of the Gospel reading, the assembly stands to welcome the Lord who speaks anew in this place and time.

In these varied actions, the dialogue between God and the worshiping assembly takes place. In order to take the word of God to heart and ponder its meaning, intervals of silence are often kept by the assembly and its readers. Just as haste hinders reflection on the word, so a tendency to wordiness on the part of worship leaders can detract from the clear and simple voice of the word proclaimed.

In most instances, baptized members of the worshiping assembly who have been trained in this ministry read the first and second readings. After brief silences, a cantor or choir leads the people in singing the psalm as well as the song or acclamation that greets the Gospel reading. Normally, the preacher reads the Gospel and then preaches the good news for the community and the world. A hymn responds to this word with thanksgiving. A proclamation of faith often continues the assembly's response, leading the community to pray for the church, the world, and those in need.

The medieval custom of two places for the word (lectern and pulpit) has yielded, in many congregations, to a single place (lectern or ambo) from which the readings are proclaimed and the sermon is preached. Here the book of life is opened; here the banquet of scripture is set forth; here the people of God are nourished on the word.

"He interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him" (Luke 24:27, 30-31). From the table of God's word, the worshiping assembly gathers at the table of the holy supper to receive the bread of life and the cup of blessing. In word and meal, the living Word welcomes, enlightens, and nourishes the people of God for service in the world.

The lectionary

The lectionary sets forth many of the stories, images, and actions through which the living Word sustains the Christian community gathered in public worship during the seasons of the year. It is ordered around the first reading, psalm, second reading, and Gospel reading. Appropriate introductions and conclusions to the readings are provided in this lectionary book. After announcing the reading with the introduction, the reader/minister pauses and then begins the proclamation. At the end of each of the first two readings, the reader pauses and then says, "The word of the Lord." The people respond, "Thanks be to God." At the conclusion of the Gospel reading, the minister says, "The Gospel of the Lord." The people respond with the words, "Praise to you, O Christ" or another appropriate acclamation.

In this lectionary book, the readings and psalms appointed for Lesser Festivals are printed after the Sunday and principal festival readings.

In places where the New Revised Standard Version versification for the psalms differs from that of the translation used in *Lutheran Book of Worship* and *Book of Common Prayer,* LBW/BCP alternate versification is noted in italics.

During the Sundays after Pentecost, an alternate set of semi-continuous first readings and psalms are provided in an appendix. Where it is the practice to read the semi-continuous first reading and psalm response, the lectionary should be opened first to the appropriate page in the appendix. The page in the body of the lectionary where the readings continue will need to be marked clearly.

In a few instances, the Revised Common Lectionary appoints readings and responses from selected books of the Apocrypha. These readings and responses are printed in a second appendix.

May this lectionary assist the worshiping assembly in the proclamation of the word and the preaching of the holy gospel.

Season of Advent

First Sunday in Advent

DECEMBER 1, 1996 *NOVEMBER 28, 1999* *DECEMBER 1, 2002*

FIRST READING: Isaiah 64:1–9

A reading from Isaiah:

1 O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
2 as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

3 When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
4 From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
5 You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.

But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
6 We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
7 There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

8 Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
9 Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 80:1–7, 17–19 *Psalm 80:1–7, 16–18* LBW/BCP

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:3–9

A reading from First Corinthians:

3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

4 I give thanks to my God always for you
because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus,
5 for in every way you have been enriched in him,
in speech and knowledge of every kind—
6 just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—
7 so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift
as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ.

8 He will also strengthen you to the end,
so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
9 God is faithful;
by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: Mark 13:24–37

The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 13th chapter.

Jesus said:
24"In those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
25and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.
26Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power
and glory.
27Then he will send out the angels,
and gather his elect from the four winds,
from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

28"From the fig tree learn its lesson:
as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves,
you know that summer is near.
29So also, when you see these things taking place,
you know that he is near, at the very gates.
30Truly I tell you,
this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place.
31Heaven and earth will pass away,
but my words will not pass away.

32"But about that day or hour no one knows,
neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son,
but only the Father.
33Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come.
34It is like a man going on a journey,
when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work,
and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch.
35Therefore, keep awake—
for you do not know when the master of the house will come,
in the evening, or at midnight,
or at cockcrow, or at dawn,
36or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly.
37And what I say to you I say to all:
Keep awake."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Second Sunday in Advent

DECEMBER 8, 1996 *DECEMBER 5, 1999* *DECEMBER 8, 2002*

FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:1–11

A reading from Isaiah:

[1]Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.
[2]Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins.

[3]A voice cries out:
"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
[4]Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.
[5]Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

[6]A voice says, "Cry out!"
And I said, "What shall I cry?"
All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.
[7]The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.
[8]The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand forever.

[9]Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,

lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
"Here is your God!"
[10]See, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
[11]He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: PSALM 85:1–2, 8–13

SECOND READING: 2 PETER 3:8–15a

A reading from Second Peter:

[8]Do not ignore this one fact, beloved,
that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years,
and a thousand years are like one day.
[9]The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness,
but is patient with you,
not wanting any to perish,
but all to come to repentance.

[10]But the day of the Lord will come like a thief,
and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise,
and the elements will be dissolved with fire,
and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.
[11]Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way,
what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness,
[12]waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God,
because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved,
and the elements will melt with fire?

[13]But, in accordance with his promise,
we wait for new heavens and a new earth,
where righteousness is at home.
[14]Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things,
strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish;
[15]and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: Mark 1:1–8

The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the first chapter.

[1]The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

[2]As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,
"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;
[3]the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,' "
[4]John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness,
proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.
[5]And people from the whole Judean countryside
and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him,
and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.
[6]Now John was clothed with camel's hair,
with a leather belt around his waist,
and he ate locusts and wild honey.
[7]He proclaimed,
"The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me;
I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals.
[8]I have baptized you with water;
but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Third Sunday in Advent

DECEMBER 15, 1996 *DECEMBER 12, 1999* *DECEMBER 15, 2002*

FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11

A reading from Isaiah:

[1]The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
[2]to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
[3]to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.
[4]They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.

[8]For I the Lord love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
[9]Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.

[10]I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,

as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
11For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: PSALM 126 or LUKE 1:47–55

SECOND READING: 1 THESSALONIANS 5:16–24

A reading from First Thessalonians:

16Rejoice always,
17pray without ceasing,
18give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
19Do not quench the Spirit.
20Do not despise the words of prophets, 21but test everything;
hold fast to what is good;
22abstain from every form of evil.

23May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely;
and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless
at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
24The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: John 1:6–8, 19–28

The Holy Gospel according to John, the first chapter.

6There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.
7He came as a witness to testify to the light,
so that all might believe through him.
8He himself was not the light,
but he came to testify to the light.

19This is the testimony given by John
when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him,
"Who are you?"
20He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah."
21And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?"
He said, "I am not."
"Are you the prophet?"
He answered, "No."
22Then they said to him, "Who are you?
Let us have an answer for those who sent us.
What do you say about yourself?"
23He said,
"I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,
'Make straight the way of the Lord,' "
as the prophet Isaiah said.

24Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.
25They asked him,
"Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah,
nor the prophet?"
26John answered them, "I baptize with water.
Among you stands one whom you do not know,
27the one who is coming after me;
I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal."
28This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Fourth Sunday in Advent

DECEMBER 22, 1996 *DECEMBER 19, 1999* *DECEMBER 22, 2002*

FIRST READING: 2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16

A reading from Second Samuel:

1Now when David the king was settled in his house,
and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him,
2the king said to the prophet Nathan,
"See now, I am living in a house of cedar,
but the ark of God stays in a tent."
3Nathan said to the king,
"Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you."

4But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:
5Go and tell my servant David:
Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in?
6I have not lived in a house
since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day,
but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle.
7Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel,
did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel,
whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying,
"Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"

8Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David:
Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture,
from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel;
9and I have been with you wherever you went,
and have cut off all your enemies from before you;
and I will make for you a great name,
like the name of the great ones of the earth.
10And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them,
so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more;
and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly,
11from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel;
and I will give you rest from all your enemies.
Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house.

[16]Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me;
your throne shall be established forever.

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Luke 1:47–55 or Psalm 89:1–4, 19–26

SECOND READING: Romans 16:25–27

A reading from Romans:

[25]Now to God who is able to strengthen you
according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ,
according to the revelation of the mystery
that was kept secret for long ages [26]but is now disclosed,
and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles,
according to the command of the eternal God,
to bring about the obedience of faith—
[27]to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ,
to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 1:26–38

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the first chapter.

[26]In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God
to a town in Galilee called Nazareth,
[27]to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph,
of the house of David.
The virgin's name was Mary.
[28]And he came to her and said,
"Greetings, favored one!
The Lord is with you."
[29]But she was much perplexed by his words
and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.
[30]The angel said to her,
"Do not be afraid, Mary,
for you have found favor with God.
[31]And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son,
and you will name him Jesus.
[32]He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High,
and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David.
[33]He will reign over the house of Jacob forever,
and of his kingdom there will be no end."

[34]Mary said to the angel,
"How can this be, since I am a virgin?"
[35]The angel said to her,
"The Holy Spirit will come upon you,
and the power of the Most High will overshadow you;
therefore the child to be born will be holy;
he will be called Son of God.
[36]And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son;
and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren.
[37]For nothing will be impossible with God."
[38]Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord;
let it be with me according to your word."
Then the angel departed from her.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Season of Christmas

The Nativity of Our Lord
Christmas Eve (I)

DECEMBER 24

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2–7

A reading from Isaiah:

2 The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.
3 You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.
4 For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
5 For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

6 For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
7 His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 96

SECOND READING: Titus 2:11–14

A reading from Titus:

11The grace of God has appeared,
bringing salvation to all,
12training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions,
and in the present age
to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly,
13while we wait for the blessed hope
and the manifestation of the glory
of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

14He it is who gave himself for us
that he might redeem us from all iniquity
and purify for himself a people of his own
who are zealous for good deeds.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 2:1–14 [15–20]

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the second chapter.

1In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus
that all the world should be registered.
2This was the first registration
and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.
3All went to their own towns to be registered.
4Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea,
to the city of David called Bethlehem,
because he was descended from the house and family of David.
5He went to be registered with Mary,
to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.
6While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child.
7And she gave birth to her firstborn son
and wrapped him in bands of cloth,
and laid him in a manger,
because there was no place for them in the inn.

[8]In that region there were shepherds living in the fields,
keeping watch over their flock by night.
[9]Then an angel of the Lord stood before them,
and the glory of the Lord shone around them,
and they were terrified.
[10]But the angel said to them,
"Do not be afraid;
for see—
I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people:
[11]to you is born this day in the city of David
a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.
[12]This will be a sign for you:
you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth
and lying in a manger."
[13]And suddenly there was with the angel
a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,
[14]"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

[[15]When the angels had left them and gone into heaven,
the shepherds said to one another,
"Let us go now to Bethlehem
and see this thing that has taken place,
which the Lord has made known to us."
[16]So they went with haste
and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.
[17]When they saw this,
they made known what had been told them about this child;
[18]and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.
[19]But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

[20]The shepherds returned,
glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen,
as it had been told them.]

The Gospel of the Lord.

The Nativity of Our Lord
Christmas Dawn (II)

DECEMBER 25

FIRST READING: Isaiah 62:6–12

A reading from Isaiah:

6Upon your walls, O Jerusalem,
    I have posted sentinels;
all day and all night
    they shall never be silent.
You who remind the Lord,
    take no rest,
7and give him no rest
    until he establishes Jerusalem
    and makes it renowned throughout the earth.

8The Lord has sworn by his right hand
    and by his mighty arm:
I will not again give your grain
    to be food for your enemies,
and foreigners shall not drink the wine
    for which you have labored;
9but those who garner it shall eat it
    and praise the Lord,
and those who gather it shall drink it
    in my holy courts.

10Go through, go through the gates,
    prepare the way for the people;
build up, build up the highway,
    clear it of stones,
    lift up an ensign over the peoples.
11The Lord has proclaimed
    to the end of the earth:
Say to daughter Zion,
    "See, your salvation comes;
his reward is with him,
    and his recompense before him."

12They shall be called, "The Holy People,
The Redeemed of the LORD";
and you shall be called, "Sought Out,
A City Not Forsaken."

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: PSALM 97

SECOND READING: TITUS 3:4–7

A reading from Titus:

4When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared,
5he saved us,
not because of any works of righteousness that we had done,
but according to his mercy,
through the water of rebirth
and renewal by the Holy Spirit.
6This Spirit he poured out on us richly
through Jesus Christ our Savior,
7so that, having been justified by his grace,
we might become heirs
according to the hope of eternal life.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: LUKE 2:[1–7] 8–20

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the second chapter.

[1In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus
that all the world should be registered.
2This was the first registration
and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.
3All went to their own towns to be registered.
4Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea,
to the city of David called Bethlehem,
because he was descended from the house and family of David.
5He went to be registered with Mary,
to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.
6While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child.
7And she gave birth to her firstborn son
and wrapped him in bands of cloth,
and laid him in a manger,
because there was no place for them in the inn.]

[8]In that region there were shepherds living in the fields,
keeping watch over their flock by night.
[9]Then an angel of the Lord stood before them,
and the glory of the Lord shone around them,
and they were terrified.
[10]But the angel said to them,
"Do not be afraid;
for see—
I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people:
[11]to you is born this day in the city of David
a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.
[12]This will be a sign for you:
you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth
and lying in a manger."
[13]And suddenly there was with the angel
a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,
[14]"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

[15]When the angels had left them and gone into heaven,
the shepherds said to one another,
"Let us go now to Bethlehem
and see this thing that has taken place,
which the Lord has made known to us."
[16]So they went with haste
and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.
[17]When they saw this,
they made known what had been told them about this child;
[18]and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.
[19]But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

[20]The shepherds returned,
glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen,
as it had been told them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

The Nativity of Our Lord
Christmas Day (III)

DECEMBER 25

FIRST READING: Isaiah 52:7–10

A reading from Isaiah:

7How beautiful upon the mountains
    are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news,
    who announces salvation,
    who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

8Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
    together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see
    the return of the Lord to Zion.

9Break forth together into singing,
    you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the Lord has comforted his people,
    he has redeemed Jerusalem.
10The Lord has bared his holy arm
    before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see
    the salvation of our God.

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 98

SECOND READING: Hebrews 1:1–4 [5–12]

A reading from Hebrews:

[1]Long ago God spoke to our ancestors
in many and various ways by the prophets,
[2]but in these last days
he has spoken to us by a Son,
whom he appointed heir of all things,
through whom he also created the worlds.
[3]He is the reflection of God's glory
and the exact imprint of God's very being,
and he sustains all things by his powerful word.
When he had made purification for sins,
he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,
[4]having become as much superior to angels
as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

[[5]For to which of the angels did God ever say,
"You are my Son;
today I have begotten you"?
Or again,
"I will be his Father,
and he will be my Son"?
[6]And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,
"Let all God's angels worship him."
[7]Of the angels he says,
"He makes his angels winds,
and his servants flames of fire."

[8]But of the Son he says,
"Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,
and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom.
[9]You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;
therefore God, your God, has anointed you
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions."
[10]And,
"In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth,
and the heavens are the work of your hands;
[11]they will perish, but you remain;
they will all wear out like clothing;
[12]like a cloak you will roll them up,
and like clothing they will be changed.
But you are the same,
and your years will never end."]

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: JOHN 1:1–14

The Holy Gospel according to John, the first chapter.

1In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.
2He was in the beginning with God.
3All things came into being through him,
and without him not one thing came into being.
What has come into being 4in him was life,
and the life was the light of all people.
5The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness did not overcome it.

6There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.
7He came as a witness to testify to the light,
so that all might believe through him.
8He himself was not the light,
but he came to testify to the light.
9The true light, which enlightens everyone,
was coming into the world.

10He was in the world,
and the world came into being through him;
yet the world did not know him.
11He came to what was his own,
and his own people did not accept him.
12But to all who received him,
who believed in his name,
he gave power to become children of God,
13who were born,
not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man,
but of God.

14And the Word became flesh and lived among us,
and we have seen his glory,
the glory as of a father's only son,
full of grace and truth.

The Gospel of the Lord.

First Sunday after Christmas

DECEMBER 29, 1996 DECEMBER 26, 1999 DECEMBER 29, 2002

FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:10—62:3

A reading from Isaiah:

10 I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
11 For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

62:1 For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.

2 The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the Lord will give.
3 You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 148

SECOND READING: Galatians 4:4–7

A reading from Galatians:

4When the fullness of time had come,
God sent his Son,
born of a woman, born under the law,
5in order to redeem those who were under the law,
so that we might receive adoption as children.
6And because you are children,
God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying,
"Abba! Father!"
7So you are no longer a slave but a child,
and if a child then also an heir, through God.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 2:22–40

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the second chapter.

22When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses,
Joseph and Mary brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord
23(as it is written in the law of the Lord,
"Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"),
24and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord,
"a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

25Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon;
this man was righteous and devout,
looking forward to the consolation of Israel,
and the Holy Spirit rested on him.
26It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit
that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah.
27Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple;
and when the parents brought in the child Jesus,
to do for him what was customary under the law,
28Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,
29"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;
30for my eyes have seen your salvation,
31which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
32a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel."
33And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said
about him.

34Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary,
"This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel,
and to be a sign that will be opposed 35so that the inner thoughts of many
will be revealed—
and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

36There was also a prophet,
Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher.
She was of a great age,
having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage,
37then as a widow to the age of eighty-four.
She never left the temple
but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day.
38At that moment she came, and began to praise God
and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of
Jerusalem.

39When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord,
they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.
40The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom;
and the favor of God was upon him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Second Sunday after Christmas

JANUARY 5, 1997 JANUARY 2, 2000 JANUARY 5, 2003

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:7–14 *Alternate Reading: Sirach 24:1–12 (p. 403)*

A reading from Jeremiah:

7Thus says the Lord:
Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
"Save, O Lord, your people,
the remnant of Israel."

8See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame,
those with child and those in labor, together;
a great company, they shall return here.
9With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back,
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

10Hear the word of the Lord, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him,
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock."
11For the Lord has ransomed Jacob,
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

12They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall become like a watered garden,
and they shall never languish again.

13Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.
I will turn their mourning into joy,
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.
14I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,
says the LORD.

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: PSALM 147:12–20

Psalm 147:13–21 LBW/BCP
Alternate Psalmody: Wisdom of Solomon 10:15–21

SECOND READING: EPHESIANS 1:3–14

A reading from Ephesians:

3Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has blessed us in Christ
with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,
4just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world
to be holy and blameless before him in love.
5He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ,
according to the good pleasure of his will,
6to the praise of his glorious grace
that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

7In him we have redemption through his blood,
the forgiveness of our trespasses,
according to the riches of his grace 8that he lavished on us.

With all wisdom and insight
9he has made known to us the mystery of his will,
according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ,
10as a plan for the fullness of time,
to gather up all things in him,
things in heaven and things on earth.

11In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance,
having been destined according to the purpose of him
who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will,
12so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ,
might live for the praise of his glory.
13In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth,
the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him,
were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit;

14this is the pledge of our inheritance
toward redemption as God's own people,
to the praise of his glory.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: John 1:[1–9] 10–18

The Holy Gospel according to John, the first chapter.

[1In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.
2He was in the beginning with God.
3All things came into being through him,
and without him not one thing came into being.
What has come into being 4in him was life,
and the life was the light of all people.
5The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness did not overcome it.

6There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.
7He came as a witness to testify to the light,
so that all might believe through him.
8He himself was not the light,
but he came to testify to the light.
9The true light, which enlightens everyone,
was coming into the world.]

10He was in the world,
and the world came into being through him;
yet the world did not know him.
11He came to what was his own,
and his own people did not accept him.
12But to all who received him,
who believed in his name,
he gave power to become children of God,
13who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh
or of the will of man,
but of God.

14And the Word became flesh and lived among us,
and we have seen his glory,
the glory as of a father's only son,
full of grace and truth.

15 (John testified to him and cried out,
"This was he of whom I said,
'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ")
16 From his fullness we have all received,
grace upon grace.
17 The law indeed was given through Moses;
grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

18 No one has ever seen God.
It is God the only Son,
who is close to the Father's heart,
who has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Season of Epiphany

The Epiphany of Our Lord

JANUARY 6

FIRST READING: Isaiah 60:1–6

A reading from Isaiah:

[1]Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
[2]For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
[3]Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

[4]Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

[5]Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
[6]A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 72:1–7, 10–14

SECOND READING: Ephesians 3:1–12

A reading from Ephesians:

[1]This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus
for the sake of you Gentiles—
[2]for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace
that was given me for you,
[3]and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation,
as I wrote above in a few words,
[4]a reading of which will enable you
to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ.

[5]In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind,
as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit:
[6]that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs,
members of the same body,
and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

[7]Of this gospel I have become a servant
according to the gift of God's grace
that was given me by the working of his power.
[8]Although I am the very least of all the saints,
this grace was given to me
to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ,
[9]and to make everyone see
what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God
who created all things;
[10]so that through the church
the wisdom of God in its rich variety
might now be made known to the rulers and authorities
in the heavenly places.
[11]This was in accordance with the eternal purpose
that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord,
[12]in whom we have access to God
in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 2:1–12

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the second chapter.

[1]In the time of King Herod,
after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea,
wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, [2]asking,
"Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews?
For we observed his star at its rising,
and have come to pay him homage."

[3]When King Herod heard this, he was frightened,
and all Jerusalem with him;
[4]and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people,
he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.
[5]They told him,
"In Bethlehem of Judea;
for so it has been written by the prophet:
[6]'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.' "

[7]Then Herod secretly called for the wise men
and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared.
[8]Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying,
"Go and search diligently for the child;
and when you have found him,
bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage."

[9]When they had heard the king, they set out;
and there, ahead of them,
went the star that they had seen at its rising,
until it stopped over the place where the child was.
[10]When they saw that the star had stopped,
they were overwhelmed with joy.
[11]On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother;
and they knelt down and paid him homage.
Then, opening their treasure chests,
they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

[12]And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod,
they left for their own country by another road.

The Gospel of the Lord.

The Baptism of Our Lord

First Sunday after the Epiphany

JANUARY 12, 1997 *JANUARY 9, 2000* *JANUARY 12, 2003*

FIRST READING: Genesis 1:1–5

A reading from Genesis:

1In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth,
2the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep,
while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.
3Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.
4And God saw that the light was good;
and God separated the light from the darkness.
5God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night.
And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 29

SECOND READING: Acts 19:1–7

A reading from Acts:

1While Apollos was in Corinth,
Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus,
where he found some disciples.
2He said to them,
"Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?"
They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit."
3Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?"
They answered, "Into John's baptism."
4Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance,
telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus."
5On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.
6When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them,
and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—
7altogether there were about twelve of them.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: Mark 1:4–11

The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the first chapter.

4John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness,
proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.
5And people from the whole Judean countryside
and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him,
and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.
6Now John was clothed with camel's hair,
with a leather belt around his waist,
and he ate locusts and wild honey.
7He proclaimed,
"The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me;
I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals.
8I have baptized you with water;
but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

9In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee
and was baptized by John in the Jordan.
10And just as he was coming up out of the water,
he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him.
11And a voice came from heaven,
"You are my Son, the Beloved;
with you I am well pleased."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Second Sunday after the Epiphany

JANUARY 19, 1997 *JANUARY 16, 2000* *JANUARY 19, 2003*

FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 3:1–10 [11–20]

A reading from First Samuel:

1Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli.
The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.
2At that time Eli,
whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see,
was lying down in his room;
3the lamp of God had not yet gone out,
and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord,
where the ark of God was.
4Then the Lord called, "Samuel! Samuel!"
and he said, "Here I am!"
5and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me."
But he said, "I did not call; lie down again."
So he went and lay down.

6The Lord called again, "Samuel!"
Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said,
"Here I am, for you called me."
But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again."
7Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord,
and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him.

8The Lord called Samuel again, a third time.
And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me."
Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy.
9Therefore Eli said to Samuel,
"Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say,
'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.' "
So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

10Now the Lord came and stood there,
calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!"
And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

[11Then the LORD said to Samuel,
"See, I am about to do something in Israel
that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle.
12On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house,
from beginning to end.
13For I have told him that I am about to punish his house forever,
for the iniquity that he knew,
because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them.
14Therefore I swear to the house of Eli
that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever."

15Samuel lay there until morning;
then he opened the doors of the house of the LORD.
Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli.
16But Eli called Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son."
He said, "Here I am."
17Eli said, "What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me.
May God do so to you and more also,
if you hide anything from me of all that he told you."
18So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him.
Then he said, "It is the LORD; let him do what seems good to him."

19As Samuel grew up,
the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground.
20And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba
knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the LORD.]

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: PSALM 139:1–6, 13–18 *Psalm 139:1–5, 12–17* LBW/BCP

SECOND READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 6:12–20

A reading from First Corinthians:

12"All things are lawful for me," but not all things are beneficial.
"All things are lawful for me," but I will not be dominated by anything.
13"Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food,"
and God will destroy both one and the other.
The body is meant not for fornication but for the Lord,
and the Lord for the body.
14And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power.

15Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ?
Should I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute?

Never!
16Do you not know that whoever is united to a prostitute becomes one body
with her?
For it is said, "The two shall be one flesh."
17But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him.
18Shun fornication!
Every sin that a person commits is outside the body;
but the fornicator sins against the body itself.
19Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you,
which you have from God, and that you are not your own?
20For you were bought with a price;
therefore glorify God in your body.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: John 1:43–51

The Holy Gospel according to John, the first chapter.

43The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee.
He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me."
44Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.
45Philip found Nathanael and said to him,
"We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets
wrote,
Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth."
46Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?"
Philip said to him, "Come and see."

47When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him,
"Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!"
48Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?"
Jesus answered,
"I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you."
49Nathanael replied,
"Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!"
50Jesus answered,
"Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree?
You will see greater things than these."
51And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you,
you will see heaven opened
and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Third Sunday after the Epiphany

JANUARY 26, 1997 *JANUARY 23, 2000* *JANUARY 26, 2003*

FIRST READING: Jonah 3:1–5, 10

A reading from Jonah:

[1]The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying,
[2]"Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city,
and proclaim to it the message that I tell you."
[3]So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord.
Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across.
[4]Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk.
And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!"
[5]And the people of Nineveh believed God;
they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

[10]When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways,
God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring
upon them;
and he did not do it.

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 62:5–12 *Psalm 62:6–14* LBW/BCP

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 7:29–31

A reading from First Corinthians:

[29]Brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short;
from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none,
[30]and those who mourn as though they were not mourning,
and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing,
and those who buy as though they had no possessions,
[31]and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it.
For the present form of this world is passing away.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: Mark 1:14–20

The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the first chapter.

14Now after John was arrested,
Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, 15and saying,
"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near;
repent, and believe in the good news."

16As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee,
he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—
for they were fishermen.
17And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people."
18And immediately they left their nets and followed him.
19As he went a little farther,
he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John,
who were in their boat mending the nets.
20Immediately he called them;
and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men,
and followed him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

February 2, 1997 January 30, 2000 February 2, 2003

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 18:15–20

A reading from Deuteronomy:

15The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me
from among your own people;
you shall heed such a prophet.
16This is what you requested of the Lord your God at Horeb
on the day of the assembly when you said:
"If I hear the voice of the Lord my God any more,
or ever again see this great fire, I will die."
17Then the Lord replied to me:
"They are right in what they have said.
18I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people;
I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet,
who shall speak to them everything that I command.
19Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my
name,
I myself will hold accountable.
20But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods,
or who presumes to speak in my name
a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—
that prophet shall die."

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 111

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 8:1–13

A reading from First Corinthians:

[1]Now concerning food sacrificed to idols:
we know that "all of us possess knowledge."
Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up.
[2]Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary
knowledge;
[3]but anyone who loves God is known by him.

[4]Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols,
we know that "no idol in the world really exists,"
and that "there is no God but one."
[5]Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—
as in fact there are many gods and many lords—
[6]yet for us there is one God, the Father,
from whom are all things and for whom we exist,
and one Lord, Jesus Christ,
through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

[7]It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge.
Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now,
they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol;
and their conscience, being weak, is defiled.
[8]"Food will not bring us close to God."
We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do.
[9]But take care that this liberty of yours
does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak.
[10]For if others see you, who possess knowledge,
eating in the temple of an idol,
might they not, since their conscience is weak,
be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols?
[11]So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died
are destroyed.
[12]But when you thus sin against members of your family,
and wound their conscience when it is weak,
you sin against Christ.
[13]Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat,
so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: Mark 1:21–28

The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the first chapter.

21Jesus and his disciples went to Capernaum;
and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught.
22They were astounded at his teaching,
for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

23Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit,
24and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth?
Have you come to destroy us?
I know who you are, the Holy One of God."
25But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!"
26And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice,
came out of him.
27They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another,
"What is this? A new teaching—with authority!
He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him."

28At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region
of Galilee.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

FEBRUARY 6, 2000 *FEBRUARY 9, 2003*

FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:21–31

A reading from Isaiah:

21 Have you not known? Have you not heard?
Has it not been told you from the beginning?
Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?
22 It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,
and spreads them like a tent to live in;
23 who brings princes to naught,
and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

24 Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,
when he blows upon them, and they wither,
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

25 To whom then will you compare me,
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.
26 Lift up your eyes on high and see:
Who created these?
He who brings out their host and numbers them,
calling them all by name;
because he is great in strength,
mighty in power,
not one is missing.

27 Why do you say, O Jacob,
and speak, O Israel,
"My way is hidden from the Lord,
and my right is disregarded by my God"?
28 Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The Lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.
29He gives power to the faint,
and strengthens the powerless.
30Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted;
31but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: PSALM 147:1–11, 20c *Psalm 147:1–12, 21c* LBW/BCP

SECOND READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 9:16–23

A reading from First Corinthians:

16If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting,
for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel!
17For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward;
but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission.
18What then is my reward?
Just this:
that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge,
so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

19For though I am free with respect to all,
I have made myself a slave to all,
so that I might win more of them.
20To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews.
To those under the law I became as one under the law
(though I myself am not under the law)
so that I might win those under the law.
21To those outside the law I became as one outside the law
(though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law)
so that I might win those outside the law.
22To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak.
I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some.
23I do it all for the sake of the gospel,
so that I may share in its blessings.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: Mark 1:29–39

The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the first chapter.

29As soon as Jesus and the disciples left the synagogue,
they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John.
30Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever,
and they told him about her at once.
31He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up.
Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

32That evening, at sundown,
they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons.
33And the whole city was gathered around the door.
34And he cured many who were sick with various diseases,
and cast out many demons;
and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

35In the morning, while it was still very dark,
he got up and went out to a deserted place,
and there he prayed.
36And Simon and his companions hunted for him.
37When they found him, they said to him,
"Everyone is searching for you."
38He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns,
so that I may proclaim the message there also;
for that is what I came out to do."
39And he went throughout Galilee,
proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

PROPER 1

FEBRUARY 13, 2000 *FEBRUARY 16, 2003*

FIRST READING: 2 Kings 5:1–14

A reading from Second Kings:

[1]Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram,
was a great man and in high favor with his master,
because by him the Lord had given victory to Aram.
The man, though a mighty warrior, suffered from leprosy.
[2]Now the Arameans on one of their raids
had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel,
and she served Naaman's wife.
[3]She said to her mistress,
"If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria!
He would cure him of his leprosy."
[4]So Naaman went in and told his lord
just what the girl from the land of Israel had said.
[5]And the king of Aram said,
"Go then, and I will send along a letter to the king of Israel."

He went, taking with him ten talents of silver,
six thousand shekels of gold, and ten sets of garments.
[6]He brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read,
"When this letter reaches you,
know that I have sent to you my servant Naaman,
that you may cure him of his leprosy."
[7]When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said,
"Am I God, to give death or life,
that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy?
Just look and see how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me."

[8]But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes,
he sent a message to the king, "Why have you torn your clothes?
Let him come to me, that he may learn that there is a prophet in Israel."
[9]So Naaman came with his horses and chariots,
and halted at the entrance of Elisha's house.

10Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying,
"Go, wash in the Jordan seven times,
and your flesh shall be restored and you shall be clean."
11But Naaman became angry and went away, saying,
"I thought that for me he would surely come out,
and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God,
and would wave his hand over the spot, and cure the leprosy!
12Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus,
better than all the waters of Israel?
Could I not wash in them, and be clean?"
He turned and went away in a rage.
13But his servants approached and said to him,
"Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult,
would you not have done it?
How much more, when all he said to you was, 'Wash, and be clean'?"
14So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan,
according to the word of the man of God;
his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy, and he was clean.

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: PSALM 30

SECOND READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 9:24–27

A reading from First Corinthians:

24Do you not know that in a race the runners all compete,
but only one receives the prize?
Run in such a way that you may win it.
25Athletes exercise self-control in all things;
they do it to receive a perishable wreath,
but we an imperishable one.
26So I do not run aimlessly,
nor do I box as though beating the air;
27but I punish my body and enslave it,
so that after proclaiming to others I myself should not be disqualified.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: MARK 1:40–45

The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the first chapter.

40A leper came to Jesus begging him, and kneeling he said to him,
"If you choose, you can make me clean."
41Moved with pity, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him,
and said to him, "I do choose. Be made clean!"
42Immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean.
43After sternly warning him he sent him away at once,
44saying to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone;
but go, show yourself to the priest,
and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, as a testimony to them."

45But he went out and began to proclaim it freely,
and to spread the word,
so that Jesus could no longer go into a town openly,
but stayed out in the country;
and people came to him from every quarter.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany

PROPER 2

FEBRUARY 20, 2000 *FEBRUARY 23, 2003*

FIRST READING: Isaiah 43:18–25

A reading from Isaiah:

18 Do not remember the former things,
or consider the things of old.
19 I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.
20 The wild animals will honor me,
the jackals and the ostriches;
for I give water in the wilderness,
rivers in the desert,
to give drink to my chosen people,
21 the people whom I formed for myself
so that they might declare my praise.

22 Yet you did not call upon me, O Jacob;
but you have been weary of me, O Israel!
23 You have not brought me your sheep for burnt offerings,
or honored me with your sacrifices.
I have not burdened you with offerings,
or wearied you with frankincense.
24 You have not bought me sweet cane with money,
or satisfied me with the fat of your sacrifices.
But you have burdened me with your sins;
you have wearied me with your iniquities.

25 I, I am He
who blots out your transgressions for my own sake,
and I will not remember your sins.

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 41

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 1:18–22

A reading from Second Corinthians:

18As surely as God is faithful,
our word to you has not been "Yes and No."
19For the Son of God, Jesus Christ,
whom we proclaimed among you, Silvanus and Timothy and I,
was not "Yes and No";
but in him it is always "Yes."
20For in him every one of God's promises is a "Yes."
For this reason it is through him that we say the "Amen," to the glory of God.
21But it is God who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us,
22by putting his seal on us and giving us his Spirit in our hearts
as a first installment.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: Mark 2:1–12

The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the second chapter.

[1]When Jesus returned to Capernaum after some days,
it was reported that he was at home.
[2]So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them,
not even in front of the door;
and he was speaking the word to them.
[3]Then some people came,
bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them.
[4]And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd,
they removed the roof above him;
and after having dug through it,
they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay.
[5]When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic,
"Son, your sins are forgiven."

[6]Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts,
[7]"Why does this fellow speak in this way?
It is blasphemy!
Who can forgive sins but God alone?"
[8]At once Jesus perceived in his spirit
that they were discussing these questions among themselves;
and he said to them, "Why do you raise such questions in your hearts?
[9]Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,'
or to say, 'Stand up and take your mat and walk'?
[10]But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth
to forgive sins"—
he said to the paralytic—
[11]"I say to you, stand up, take your mat and go to your home."
[12]And he stood up,
and immediately took the mat and went out before all of them;
so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying,
"We have never seen anything like this!"

The Gospel of the Lord.

Eighth Sunday after the Epiphany

PROPER 3

FEBRUARY 27, 20

FIRST READING: Hosea 2:14–20

A reading from Hosea:

14 I will now allure her, says the Lord,
and bring her into the wilderness,
and speak tenderly to her.
15 From there I will give her her vineyards,
and make the Valley of Achor a door of hope.
There she shall respond as in the days of her youth,
as at the time when she came out of the land of Egypt.

16 On that day, says the Lord, you will call me, "My husband,"
and no longer will you call me, "My Baal."
17 For I will remove the names of the Baals from her mouth,
and they shall be mentioned by name no more.
18 I will make for you a covenant on that day with the wild animals,
the birds of the air, and the creeping things of the ground;
and I will abolish the bow, the sword, and war from the land;
and I will make you lie down in safety.
19 And I will take you for my wife forever;
I will take you for my wife in righteousness and in justice,
in steadfast love, and in mercy.
20 I will take you for my wife in faithfulness;
and you shall know the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 103:1–13, 22

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 3:1–6

A reading from Second Corinthians:

[1]Are we beginning to commend ourselves again?
Surely we do not need, as some do,
letters of recommendation to you or from you, do we?
[2]You yourselves are our letter,
written on our hearts, to be known and read by all;
[3]and you show that you are a letter of Christ,
prepared by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God,
not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.
[4]Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God.
[5]Not that we are competent of ourselves to claim anything as coming from us;
our competence is from God,
[6]who has made us competent to be ministers of a new covenant,
not of letter but of spirit;
for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: MARK 2:13–22

The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the second chapter.

13Jesus went out again beside the sea;
the whole crowd gathered around him, and he taught them.
14As he was walking along,
he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth,
and he said to him, "Follow me."
And he got up and followed him.

15And as he sat at dinner in Levi's house,
many tax collectors and sinners were also sitting with Jesus and his disciples—
for there were many who followed him.
16When the scribes of the Pharisees saw that he was eating with sinners and
tax collectors,
they said to his disciples,
"Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?"
17When Jesus heard this, he said to them,
"Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick;
I have come to call not the righteous but sinners."

18Now John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting;
and people came and said to him,
"Why do John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast,
but your disciples do not fast?"
19Jesus said to them,
"The wedding guests cannot fast while the bridegroom is with them, can they?
As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast.
20The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them,
and then they will fast on that day.

21"No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old cloak;
otherwise, the patch pulls away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear
is made.
22And no one puts new wine into old wineskins;
otherwise, the wine will burst the skins,
and the wine is lost, and so are the skins;
but one puts new wine into fresh wineskins."

The Gospel of the Lord.

The Transfiguration of Our Lord

Last Sunday after the Epiphany

FEBRUARY 9, 1997 MARCH 5, 2000 MARCH 2, 2003

FIRST READING: 2 Kings 2:1–12

A reading from Second Kings:

1Now when the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind,
Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal.
2Elijah said to Elisha,
"Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel."
But Elisha said,
"As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you."
So they went down to Bethel.
3The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha,
and said to him,
"Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?"
And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent."

4Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the Lord has sent me to Jericho."
But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you."
So they came to Jericho.
5The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said
to him,
"Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?"
And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent."

6Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan."
But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you."
So the two of them went on.
7Fifty men of the company of prophets also went,
and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing
by the Jordan.
8Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water;
the water was parted to the one side and to the other,
until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

9When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha,
"Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you."
Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit."

[10]He responded, "You have asked a hard thing;
yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you;
if not, it will not."
[11]As they continued walking and talking,
a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them,
and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven.
[12]Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father!
The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!"
But when he could no longer see him,
he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: PSALM 50:1–6

SECOND READING: 2 CORINTHIANS 4:3–6

A reading from Second Corinthians:

[3]Even if our gospel is veiled,
it is veiled to those who are perishing.
[4]In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers,
to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ,
who is the image of God.
[5]For we do not proclaim ourselves;
we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake.
[6]For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness,"
who has shone in our hearts
to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God
in the face of Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: Mark 9:2–9

The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the ninth chapter.

2Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John,
and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves.
And he was transfigured before them,
3and his clothes became dazzling white,
such as no one on earth could bleach them.
4And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus.
5Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here;
let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."
6He did not know what to say, for they were terrified.
7Then a cloud overshadowed them,
and from the cloud there came a voice,
"This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!"
8Suddenly when they looked around,
they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

9As they were coming down the mountain,
he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen,
until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Season of Lent

Ash Wednesday

FEBRUARY 12, 1997 MARCH 8, 2000 MARCH 5, 2003

FIRST READING: Joel 2:1–2, 12–17
Or Isaiah 58:1–12, following

A reading from Joel:

[1]Blow the trumpet in Zion;
sound the alarm on my holy mountain!
Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,
for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near—
[2]a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness!
Like blackness spread upon the mountains
a great and powerful army comes;
their like has never been from of old,
nor will be again after them
in ages to come.

[12]Yet even now, says the Lord,
return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
[13]rend your hearts and not your clothing.
Return to the Lord, your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,
and relents from punishing.
[14]Who knows whether he will not turn and relent,
and leave a blessing behind him,
a grain offering and a drink offering
for the Lord, your God?

[15]Blow the trumpet in Zion;
sanctify a fast;
call a solemn assembly;
[16]gather the people.
Sanctify the congregation;
assemble the aged;
gather the children,

even infants at the breast.
Let the bridegroom leave his room,
and the bride her canopy.

17Between the vestibule and the altar
let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep.
Let them say, "Spare your people, O LORD,
and do not make your heritage a mockery,
a byword among the nations.
Why should it be said among the peoples,
'Where is their God?' "

The word of the Lord.

OR: ISAIAH 58:1–12

A reading from Isaiah:

1Shout out, do not hold back!
Lift up your voice like a trumpet!
Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.
2Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgments,
they delight to draw near to God.

3"Why do we fast, but you do not see?
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?"
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day,
and oppress all your workers.
4Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.
Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.

5Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?
Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the LORD?

6Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,

to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?
7Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?
8Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you,
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.
9Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
10if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.
11The LORD will guide you continually,
and satisfy your needs in parched places,
and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water,
whose waters never fail.
12Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: PSALM 51:1–17 *Psalm 51:1–18* LBW/BCP

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10

A reading from Second Corinthians:

20b We entreat you on behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.
21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin,
so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

6:1 As we work together with him,
we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain.
2 For he says,
"At an acceptable time I have listened to you,
and on a day of salvation I have helped you."
See, now is the acceptable time;
see, now is the day of salvation!

3 We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way,
so that no fault may be found with our ministry,
4 but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way:
through great endurance,
in afflictions, hardships, calamities,
5 beatings, imprisonments, riots,
labors, sleepless nights, hunger;
6 by purity, knowledge, patience,
kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love,
7 truthful speech, and the power of God;
with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left;
8 in honor and dishonor,
in ill repute and good repute.
We are treated as impostors, and yet are true;
9 as unknown, and yet are well known;
as dying, and see—we are alive;
as punished, and yet not killed;
10 as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing;
as poor, yet making many rich;
as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 6:1–6, 16–21

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the sixth chapter.

Jesus said to the disciples:
1"Beware of practicing your piety before others
in order to be seen by them;
for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.
2So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you,
as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets,
so that they may be praised by others.
Truly I tell you,
they have received their reward.
3But when you give alms,
do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing,
4so that your alms may be done in secret;
and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

5"And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites;
for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners,
so that they may be seen by others.
Truly I tell you,
they have received their reward.
6But whenever you pray,
go into your room and shut the door
and pray to your Father who is in secret;
and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

16"And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites,
for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting.
Truly I tell you,
they have received their reward.
17But when you fast,
put oil on your head and wash your face,
18so that your fasting may be seen not by others
but by your Father who is in secret;
and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

19"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth,
where moth and rust consume
and where thieves break in and steal;
20but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven,
where neither moth nor rust consumes
and where thieves do not break in and steal.
21For where your treasure is,
there your heart will be also."

The Gospel of the Lord.

First Sunday in Lent

FEBRUARY 16, 1997 *MARCH 12, 2000* *MARCH 9, 2003*

FIRST READING: Genesis 9:8–17

A reading from Genesis:

8God said to Noah and to his sons with him,
9"As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants
after you,
10and with every living creature that is with you,
the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you,
as many as came out of the ark.
11I establish my covenant with you,
that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood,
and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth."
12God said, "This is the sign of the covenant
that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you,
for all future generations:
13I have set my bow in the clouds,
and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth.
14When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds,
15I will remember my covenant that is between me and you
and every living creature of all flesh;
and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh.
16When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting
covenant
between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth."
17God said to Noah,
"This is the sign of the covenant that I have established
between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 25:1–10 *Psalm 25:1–9* LBW/BCP

SECOND READING: 1 PETER 3:18–22

A reading from First Peter:

18Christ also suffered for sins once for all,
the righteous for the unrighteous,
in order to bring you to God.
He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit,
19in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison,
20who in former times did not obey,
when God waited patiently in the days of Noah,
during the building of the ark,
in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water.
21And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—
not as a removal of dirt from the body,
but as an appeal to God for a good conscience,
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,
22who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God,
with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: MARK 1:9–15

The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the first chapter.

9In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee
and was baptized by John in the Jordan.
10And just as he was coming up out of the water,
he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him.
11And a voice came from heaven,
"You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

12And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness.
13He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan;
and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

14Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee,
proclaiming the good news of God, 15and saying,
"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near;
repent, and believe in the good news."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Second Sunday in Lent

FEBRUARY 23, 1997 *MARCH 19, 2000* *MARCH 16, 2003*

FIRST READING: Genesis 17:1–7, 15–16

A reading from Genesis:

1When Abram was ninety-nine years old,
the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him,
"I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless.
2And I will make my covenant between me and you,
and will make you exceedingly numerous."
3Then Abram fell on his face;
and God said to him, 4"As for me, this is my covenant with you:
You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations.
5No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham;
for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations.
6I will make you exceedingly fruitful;
and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you.
7I will establish my covenant between me and you,
and your offspring after you throughout their generations,
for an everlasting covenant,
to be God to you and to your offspring after you."

15God said to Abraham,
"As for Sarah your wife, you shall not call her Sarai,
but Sarah shall be her name.
16I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her.
I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations;
kings of peoples shall come from her."

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 22:23–31 *Psalm 22:22–30* LBW/BCP

SECOND READING: Romans 4:13–25

A reading from Romans:

13The promise that he would inherit the world
did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law
but through the righteousness of faith.
14If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs,
faith is null and the promise is void.
15For the law brings wrath;
but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

16For this reason it depends on faith,
in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his
descendants,
not only to the adherents of the law
but also to those who share the faith of Abraham
(for he is the father of all of us, 17as it is written,
"I have made you the father of many nations")—
in the presence of the God in whom he believed,
who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.
18Hoping against hope,
he believed that he would become "the father of many nations,"
according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be."
19He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body,
which was already as good as dead
(for he was about a hundred years old),
or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb.
20No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God,
but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God,
21being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.
22Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness."
23Now the words, "it was reckoned to him,"
were written not for his sake alone, 24but for ours also.
It will be reckoned to us who believe in him
who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead,
25who was handed over to death for our trespasses
and was raised for our justification.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: Mark 8:31–38

The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the eighth chapter.

31Jesus began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering.
and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes,
and be killed, and after three days rise again.
32He said all this quite openly.
And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.
33But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said,
"Get behind me, Satan!
For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

34He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them,
"If any want to become my followers,
let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.
35For those who want to save their life will lose it,
and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel,
will save it.
36For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life?
37Indeed, what can they give in return for their life?
38Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful
generation,
of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed
when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Third Sunday in Lent

MARCH 2, 1997 *MARCH 26, 2000* *MARCH 23, 2003*

FIRST READING: Exodus 20:1–17

A reading from Exodus:

1God spoke all these words:
2I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt,
out of the house of slavery;
3you shall have no other gods before me.

4You shall not make for yourself an idol,
whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above,
or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.
5You shall not bow down to them or worship them;
for I the Lord your God am a jealous God,
punishing children for the iniquity of parents,
to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me,
6but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation
of those who love me and keep my commandments.

7You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God,
for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

8Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy.
9Six days you shall labor and do all your work.
10But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God:
you shall not do any work—
you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock,
or the alien resident in your towns.
11For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea,
and all that is in them,
but rested the seventh day;
therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

12Honor your father and your mother,
so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.
13You shall not murder.
14You shall not commit adultery.

15You shall not steal.
16You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
17You shall not covet your neighbor's house;
you shall not covet your neighbor's wife,
or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your
neighbor.

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: PSALM 19

SECOND READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 1:18–25

A reading from First Corinthians:

18The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing,
but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.
19For it is written,
"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."
20Where is the one who is wise?
Where is the scribe?
Where is the debater of this age?
Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

21For since, in the wisdom of God,
the world did not know God through wisdom,
God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation,
to save those who believe.
22For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom,
23but we proclaim Christ crucified,
a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles,
24but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks,
Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.
25For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom,
and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: John 2:13–22

The Holy Gospel according to John, the second chapter.

13The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.
14In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves,
and the money changers seated at their tables.
15Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple,
both the sheep and the cattle.
He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their
tables.
16He told those who were selling the doves,
"Take these things out of here!
Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!"
17His disciples remembered that it was written,
"Zeal for your house will consume me."
18The Jews then said to him,
"What sign can you show us for doing this?"
19Jesus answered them,
"Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."
20The Jews then said,
"This temple has been under construction for forty-six years,
and will you raise it up in three days?"
21But he was speaking of the temple of his body.

22After he was raised from the dead,
his disciples remembered that he had said this;
and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Fourth Sunday in Lent

MARCH 9, 1997 APRIL 2, 2000 MARCH 30, 2003

FIRST READING: Numbers 21:4–9

A reading from Numbers:

4From Mount Hor the Israelites set out by the way to the Red Sea,
to go around the land of Edom;
but the people became impatient on the way.
5The people spoke against God and against Moses,
"Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness?
For there is no food and no water,
and we detest this miserable food."
6Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people,
and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died.
7The people came to Moses and said,
"We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you;
pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us."

So Moses prayed for the people.
8And the Lord said to Moses,
"Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole;
and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live."
9So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole;
and whenever a serpent bit someone,
that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 107:1–3, 17–22

SECOND READING: Ephesians 2:1–10

A reading from Ephesians:

1You were dead through the trespasses and sins 2in which you once lived,
following the course of this world,
following the ruler of the power of the air,
the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient.
3All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh,

following the desires of flesh and senses,
and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else.

[4]But God, who is rich in mercy,
out of the great love with which he loved us
[5]even when we were dead through our trespasses,
made us alive together with Christ—
by grace you have been saved—
[6]and raised us up with him
and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,
[7]so that in the ages to come
he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace
in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.
[8]For by grace you have been saved through faith,
and this is not your own doing;
it is the gift of God—
[9]not the result of works, so that no one may boast.
[10]For we are what he has made us,
created in Christ Jesus for good works,
which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: John 3:14–21

The Holy Gospel according to John, the third chapter.

Jesus said:
[14]"Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness,
so must the Son of Man be lifted up,
[15]that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.
[16]For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

[17]"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world,
but in order that the world might be saved through him.
[18]Those who believe in him are not condemned;
but those who do not believe are condemned already,
because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God.
[19]And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world,
and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil.
[20]For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light,
so that their deeds may not be exposed.
[21]But those who do what is true come to the light,
so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Fifth Sunday in Lent

MARCH 16, 1997 APRIL 9, 2000 APRIL 6, 2003

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31–34

A reading from Jeremiah:

31The days are surely coming, says the Lord,
when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of
Judah.
32It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors
when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—
a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord.

33But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel
after those days, says the Lord:
I will put my law within them,
and I will write it on their hearts;
and I will be their God,
and they shall be my people.
34No longer shall they teach one another,
or say to each other, "Know the Lord,"
for they shall all know me,
from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord;
for I will forgive their iniquity,
and remember their sin no more.

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 51:1–12* or Psalm 119:9–16 **Psalm 51:1–13* LBW/BCP*

SECOND READING: Hebrews 5:5–10

A reading from Hebrews:

5 Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest,
but was appointed by the one who said to him,
"You are my Son,
today I have begotten you";
6 as he says also in another place,
"You are a priest forever,
according to the order of Melchizedek."
7 In the days of his flesh,
Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears,
to the one who was able to save him from death,
and he was heard because of his reverent submission.
8 Although he was a Son,
he learned obedience through what he suffered;
9 and having been made perfect,
he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him,
10 having been designated by God a high priest according to the order
of Melchizedek.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: John 12:20–33

The Holy Gospel according to John, the twelfth chapter.

20Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks.
21They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee,
and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus."
22Philip went and told Andrew;
then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus.
23Jesus answered them,
"The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.
24Very truly, I tell you,
unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies,
it remains just a single grain;
but if it dies, it bears much fruit.
25Those who love their life lose it,
and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.
26Whoever serves me must follow me,
and where I am, there will my servant be also.
Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

27"Now my soul is troubled.
And what should I say—'Father, save me from this hour'?
No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour.
28Father, glorify your name."
Then a voice came from heaven,
"I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again."
29The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder.
Others said, "An angel has spoken to him."
30Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine.
31Now is the judgment of this world;
now the ruler of this world will be driven out.
32And I, when I am lifted up from the earth,
will draw all people to myself."
33He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Holy Week

Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday

Liturgy of the Palms

MARCH 23, 1997 APRIL 16, 2000 APRIL 13, 2003

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL: Mark 11:1–11

Or John 12:12–16, following

The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the eleventh chapter.

1When they were approaching Jerusalem,
at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives,
Jesus sent two of his disciples 2and said to them,
"Go into the village ahead of you,
and immediately as you enter it,
you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden;
untie it and bring it.
3If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?'
just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.' "
4They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street.
As they were untying it, 5some of the bystanders said to them,
"What are you doing, untying the colt?"
6They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it.

7Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it;
and he sat on it.
8Many people spread their cloaks on the road,
and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields.
9Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,
"Hosanna!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
10Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

11Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple;
and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late,
he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

The Gospel of the Lord.

OR: John 12:12–16

The Holy Gospel according to John, the twelfth chapter.

12The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival
heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem.
13So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting,
"Hosanna!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord—
the King of Israel!"
14Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it; as it is written:
15"Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion.
Look, your king is coming,
sitting on a donkey's colt!"
16His disciples did not understand these things at first;
but when Jesus was glorified,
then they remembered that these things had been written of him
and had been done to him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 118:1–2, 19–29

Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday

Liturgy of the Passion

MARCH 23, 1997 APRIL 16, 2000 APRIL 13, 2003

FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4–9a

A reading from Isaiah:

4The Lord God has given me
the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.
Morning by morning he wakens—
wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.
5The Lord God has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backward.
6I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;
I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.

7The Lord God helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
8he who vindicates me is near.
Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.
Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.
9It is the Lord God who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 31:9–16

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:5–11

A reading from Philippians:

[5]Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
[6]who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
[7]but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
[8]he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

[9]Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
[10]so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
[11]and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: Mark 14:1—15:47

Or Mark 15:1–39 [40–47], following on p. 97

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

[1]It was two days before the Passover and the festival of Unleavened Bread.
The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to arrest Jesus by
stealth and kill him;
[2]for they said, "Not during the festival,
or there may be a riot among the people."

[3]While he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper,
as he sat at the table,
a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard,
and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head.
[4]But some were there who said to one another in anger,
"Why was the ointment wasted in this way?
[5]For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii,
and the money given to the poor."
And they scolded her.
[6]But Jesus said, "Let her alone; why do you trouble her?
She has performed a good service for me.
[7]For you always have the poor with you,
and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish;
but you will not always have me.
[8]She has done what she could;
she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial.
[9]Truly I tell you,
wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world,
what she has done will be told in remembrance of her."

[10]Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve,
went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them.
[11]When they heard it, they were greatly pleased,
and promised to give him money.
So he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

[12]On the first day of Unleavened Bread,
when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, his disciples said to him,
"Where do you want us to go
and make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?"
[13]So he sent two of his disciples, saying to them,
"Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you;
follow him, [14]and wherever he enters,
say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks,
Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?'
[15]He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready.
Make preparations for us there."

16So the disciples set out and went to the city,
and found everything as he had told them;
and they prepared the Passover meal.

17When it was evening, he came with the twelve.
18And when they had taken their places and were eating, Jesus said,
"Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me,
one who is eating with me."
19They began to be distressed and to say to him one after another,
"Surely, not I?"
20He said to them,
"It is one of the twelve,
one who is dipping bread into the bowl with me.
21For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him,
but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed!
It would have been better for that one not to have been born."

22While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread,
and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them,
and said, "Take; this is my body."
23Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them,
and all of them drank from it.
24He said to them,
"This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many.
25Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine
until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

26When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.
27And Jesus said to them, "You will all become deserters;
for it is written,
'I will strike the shepherd,
and the sheep will be scattered.'
28But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee."
29Peter said to him, "Even though all become deserters, I will not."
30Jesus said to him, "Truly I tell you, this day, this very night,
before the cock crows twice,
you will deny me three times."
31But he said vehemently,
"Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you."
And all of them said the same.

32They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples,
"Sit here while I pray."
33He took with him Peter and James and John,
and began to be distressed and agitated.
34And he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death;
remain here, and keep awake."
35And going a little farther,

he threw himself on the ground and prayed that,
if it were possible, the hour might pass from him.
[36]He said, "Abba, Father, for you all things are possible;
remove this cup from me;
yet, not what I want, but what you want."
[37]He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter,
"Simon, are you asleep?
Could you not keep awake one hour?
[38]Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial;
the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."
[39]And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words.
[40]And once more he came and found them sleeping,
for their eyes were very heavy;
and they did not know what to say to him.
[41]He came a third time and said to them,
"Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough!
The hour has come;
the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.
[42]Get up, let us be going.
See, my betrayer is at hand."

[43]Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived;
and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs,
from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders.
[44]Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying,
"The one I will kiss is the man;
arrest him and lead him away under guard."
[45]So when he came, he went up to him at once and said,
"Rabbi!" and kissed him.
[46]Then they laid hands on him and arrested him.
[47]But one of those who stood near drew his sword
and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear.
[48]Then Jesus said to them,
"Have you come out with swords and clubs
to arrest me as though I were a bandit?
[49]Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching,
and you did not arrest me.
But let the scriptures be fulfilled."
[50]All of them deserted him and fled.

[51]A certain young man was following him,
wearing nothing but a linen cloth.
They caught hold of him, [52]but he left the linen cloth and ran off naked.

[53]They took Jesus to the high priest;
and all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes were assembled.
[54]Peter had followed him at a distance,
right into the courtyard of the high priest;

and he was sitting with the guards, warming himself at the fire.
55Now the chief priests and the whole council
were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death;
but they found none.
56For many gave false testimony against him,
and their testimony did not agree.
57Some stood up and gave false testimony against him, saying,
58"We heard him say,
'I will destroy this temple that is made with hands,
and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.' "
59But even on this point their testimony did not agree.
60Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus,
"Have you no answer?
What is it that they testify against you?"
61But he was silent and did not answer.
Again the high priest asked him,
"Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?"
62Jesus said, "I am; and
'you will see the Son of Man
seated at the right hand of the Power,'
and 'coming with the clouds of heaven.' "
63Then the high priest tore his clothes and said,
"Why do we still need witnesses?
64You have heard his blasphemy!
What is your decision?"
All of them condemned him as deserving death.
65Some began to spit on him, to blindfold him, and to strike him,
saying to him, "Prophesy!"
The guards also took him over and beat him.

66While Peter was below in the courtyard,
one of the servant-girls of the high priest came by.
67When she saw Peter warming himself, she stared at him and said,
"You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth."
68But he denied it, saying,
"I do not know or understand what you are talking about."
And he went out into the forecourt.
Then the cock crowed.
69And the servant-girl, on seeing him, began again to say to the bystanders,
"This man is one of them."
70But again he denied it.
Then after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter,
"Certainly you are one of them; for you are a Galilean."
71But he began to curse, and he swore an oath,
"I do not know this man you are talking about."
72At that moment the cock crowed for the second time.
Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him,
"Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times."

And he broke down and wept.

15:1As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation
with the elders and scribes and the whole council.
They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate.
2Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?"
He answered him, "You say so."
3Then the chief priests accused him of many things.
4Pilate asked him again, "Have you no answer?
See how many charges they bring against you."
5But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

6Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them,
anyone for whom they asked.
7Now a man called Barabbas was in prison
with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection.
8So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his
custom.
9Then he answered them,
"Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?"
10For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed
him over.
11But the chief priests stirred up the crowd
to have him release Barabbas for them instead.
12Pilate spoke to them again,
"Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?"
13They shouted back, "Crucify him!"
14Pilate asked them, "Why, what evil has he done?"
But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him!"
15So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them;
and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

16Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace
(that is, the governor's headquarters);
and they called together the whole cohort.
17And they clothed him in a purple cloak;
and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him.
18And they began saluting him, "Hail, King of the Jews!"
19They struck his head with a reed,
spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him.
20After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak
and put his own clothes on him.
Then they led him out to crucify him.

21They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country,
to carry his cross;
it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus.
22Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha
(which means the place of a skull).

[23]And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it.
[24]And they crucified him,
and divided his clothes among them,
casting lots to decide what each should take.

[25]It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him.
[26]The inscription of the charge against him read,
"The King of the Jews."
[27]And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left.
[29]Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying,
"Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days,
[30]save yourself, and come down from the cross!"
[31]In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes,
were also mocking him among themselves and saying,
"He saved others; he cannot save himself.
[32]Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now,
so that we may see and believe."
Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

[33]When it was noon,
darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon.
[34]At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice,
"Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?"
which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"
[35]When some of the bystanders heard it, they said,
"Listen, he is calling for Elijah."
[36]And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine,
put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying,
"Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down."
[37]Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.
[38]And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.
[39]Now when the centurion, who stood facing him,
saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said,
"Truly this man was God's Son!"

[40]There were also women looking on from a distance;
among them were Mary Magdalene,
and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome.
[41]These used to follow him and provided for him when he was in Galilee;
and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem.

[42]When evening had come,
and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath,
[43]Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council,
who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God,
went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.
[44]Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead;
and summoning the centurion,

he asked him whether he had been dead for some time.
45When he learned from the centurion that he was dead,
he granted the body to Joseph.
46Then Joseph bought a linen cloth,
and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth,
and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock.
He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb.
47Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where the body was laid.

The Gospel of the Lord.

OR: MARK 15:1–39 [40–47]

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

1As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation
with the elders and scribes and the whole council.
They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate.
2Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?"
He answered him, "You say so."
3Then the chief priests accused him of many things.
4Pilate asked him again, "Have you no answer?
See how many charges they bring against you."
5But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

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anyone for whom they asked.
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10For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over.
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(that is, the governor's headquarters);

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and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him.
18And they began saluting him, "Hail, King of the Jews!"
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spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him.
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to carry his cross;
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"Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days,
30save yourself, and come down from the cross!"
31In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes,
were also mocking him among themselves and saying,
"He saved others; he cannot save himself.
32Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now,
so that we may see and believe."
Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

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darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon.
34At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice,
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which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"
35When some of the bystanders heard it, they said,
"Listen, he is calling for Elijah."
36And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine,
put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying,
"Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down."
37Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.
38And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.
39Now when the centurion, who stood facing him,
saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said,

"Truly this man was God's Son!"
[40There were also women looking on from a distance;
among them were Mary Magdalene,
and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome.
41These used to follow him and provided for him when he was in Galilee;
and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem.

42When evening had come,
and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath,
43Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council,
who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God,
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44Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead;
and summoning the centurion,
he asked him whether he had been dead for some time.
45When he learned from the centurion that he was dead,
he granted the body to Joseph.
46Then Joseph bought a linen cloth,
and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth,
and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock.
He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb.
47Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where the body was
laid.]

The Gospel of the Lord.

Monday in Holy Week

MARCH 24, 1997 *APRIL 17, 2000* *APRIL 14, 2003*

FIRST READING: Isaiah 42:1–9

A reading from Isaiah:

[1]Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.
[2]He will not cry or lift up his voice,
or make it heard in the street;
[3]a bruised reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.
[4]He will not grow faint or be crushed
until he has established justice in the earth;
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

[5]Thus says God, the Lord,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it
and spirit to those who walk in it:
[6]I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness,
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people,
a light to the nations,
[7]to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.
[8]I am the Lord, that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to idols.
[9]See, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth,
I tell you of them.

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 36:5–11

SECOND READING: Hebrews 9:11–15

A reading from Hebrews:

11When Christ came as a high priest of the good things that have come,
then through the greater and perfect tent
(not made with hands, that is, not of this creation),
12he entered once for all into the Holy Place,
not with the blood of goats and calves,
but with his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption.

13For if the blood of goats and bulls,
with the sprinkling of the ashes of a heifer,
sanctifies those who have been defiled so that their flesh is purified,
14how much more will the blood of Christ,
who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God,
purify our conscience from dead works to worship the living God!

15For this reason he is the mediator of a new covenant,
so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance,
because a death has occurred
that redeems them from the transgressions under the first covenant.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: JOHN 12:1–11

The Holy Gospel according to John, the twelfth chapter.

[1]Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany,
the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead.
[2]There they gave a dinner for him.
Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him.
[3]Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard,
anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair.
The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

[4]But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples
(the one who was about to betray him), said,
[5]"Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii
and the money given to the poor?"
[6](He said this not because he cared about the poor,
but because he was a thief;
he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.)
[7]Jesus said,
"Leave her alone.
She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial.
[8]You always have the poor with you,
but you do not always have me."

[9]When the great crowd of the Jews learned that he was there,
they came not only because of Jesus
but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead.
[10]So the chief priests planned to put Lazarus to death as well,
[11]since it was on account of him that many of the Jews were deserting
and were believing in Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Tuesday in Holy Week

MARCH 25, 1997 APRIL 18, 2000 APRIL 15, 2003

FIRST READING: Isaiah 49:1–7

A reading from Isaiah:

[1]Listen to me, O coastlands,
pay attention, you peoples from far away!
The LORD called me before I was born,
while I was in my mother's womb he named me.
[2]He made my mouth like a sharp sword,
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;
he made me a polished arrow,
in his quiver he hid me away.
[3]And he said to me, "You are my servant,
Israel, in whom I will be glorified."
[4]But I said, "I have labored in vain,
I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;
yet surely my cause is with the LORD,
and my reward with my God."

[5]And now the LORD says,
who formed me in the womb to be his servant,
to bring Jacob back to him,
and that Israel might be gathered to him,
for I am honored in the sight of the LORD,
and my God has become my strength—
[6]he says,
"It is too light a thing that you should be my servant
to raise up the tribes of Jacob
and to restore the survivors of Israel;
I will give you as a light to the nations,
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

[7]Thus says the LORD,
the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations,
the slave of rulers,

"Kings shall see and stand up,
princes, and they shall prostrate themselves,
because of the LORD, who is faithful,
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: PSALM 71:1–14

SECOND READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 1:18–31

A reading from First Corinthians:

18The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing,
but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.
19For it is written,
"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."
20Where is the one who is wise?
Where is the scribe?
Where is the debater of this age?
Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

21For since, in the wisdom of God,
the world did not know God through wisdom,
God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation,
to save those who believe.
22For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom,
23but we proclaim Christ crucified,
a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles,
24but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks,
Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.
25For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom,
and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

26Consider your own call, brothers and sisters:
not many of you were wise by human standards,
not many were powerful,
not many were of noble birth.
27But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise;
God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong;
28God chose what is low and despised in the world,
things that are not,
to reduce to nothing things that are,
29so that no one might boast in the presence of God.

30He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus,
who became for us wisdom from God,
and righteousness and sanctification and redemption,
31in order that, as it is written,
"Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: John 12:20–36

The Holy Gospel according to John, the twelfth chapter.

20Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks.
21They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee,
and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus."
22Philip went and told Andrew;
then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus.
23Jesus answered them,
"The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.
24Very truly, I tell you,
unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies,
it remains just a single grain;
but if it dies, it bears much fruit.
25Those who love their life lose it,
and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.
26Whoever serves me must follow me,
and where I am, there will my servant be also.
Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

27"Now my soul is troubled.
And what should I say—'Father, save me from this hour'?
No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour.
28Father, glorify your name."
Then a voice came from heaven,
"I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again."
29The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder.
Others said, "An angel has spoken to him."
30Jesus answered,
"This voice has come for your sake, not for mine.
31Now is the judgment of this world;
now the ruler of this world will be driven out.
32And I, when I am lifted up from the earth,
will draw all people to myself."
33He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.
34The crowd answered him,
"We have heard from the law that the Messiah remains forever.
How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up?
Who is this Son of Man?"

[35]Jesus said to them,
"The light is with you for a little longer.
Walk while you have the light,
so that the darkness may not overtake you.
If you walk in the darkness, you do not know where you are going.
[36]While you have the light, believe in the light,
so that you may become children of light."

After Jesus had said this, he departed and hid from them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Wednesday in Holy Week

MARCH 26, 1997 APRIL 19, 2000 APRIL 16, 2003

FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4–9a

A reading from Isaiah:

4The Lord God has given me
the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.
Morning by morning he wakens—
wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.
5The Lord God has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backward.
6I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;
I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.

7The Lord God helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
8he who vindicates me is near.
Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.
Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.
9It is the Lord God who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 70

SECOND READING: Hebrews 12:1–3

A reading from Hebrews:

1Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses,
let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely,

and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us,
2looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith,
who for the sake of the joy that was set before him
endured the cross, disregarding its shame,
and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

3Consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinners,
so that you may not grow weary or lose heart.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: John 13:21–32

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 13th chapter.

21Jesus was troubled in spirit, and declared,
"Very truly, I tell you, one of you will betray me."
22The disciples looked at one another,
uncertain of whom he was speaking.

23One of his disciples—the one whom Jesus loved—was reclining next to him;
24Simon Peter therefore motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking.
25So while reclining next to Jesus, he asked him,
"Lord, who is it?"
26Jesus answered,
"It is the one to whom I give this piece of bread
when I have dipped it in the dish."
So when he had dipped the piece of bread,
he gave it to Judas son of Simon Iscariot.
27After he received the piece of bread, Satan entered into him.
Jesus said to him,
"Do quickly what you are going to do."
28Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him.
29Some thought that, because Judas had the common purse,
Jesus was telling him, "Buy what we need for the festival";
or, that he should give something to the poor.
30So, after receiving the piece of bread, he immediately went out.
And it was night.

31When he had gone out, Jesus said,
"Now the Son of Man has been glorified,
and God has been glorified in him.
32If God has been glorified in him,
God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once."

The Gospel of the Lord.

The Three Days

Maundy Thursday

MARCH 27, 1997 APRIL 20, 2000 APRIL 17, 2003

FIRST READING: Exodus 12:1–4 [5–10] 11–14

A reading from Exodus:

[1]The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt:
[2]This month shall mark for you the beginning of months;
it shall be the first month of the year for you.
[3]Tell the whole congregation of Israel
that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family,
a lamb for each household.
[4]If a household is too small for a whole lamb,
it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one;
the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it.

[[5]Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male;
you may take it from the sheep or from the goats.
[6]You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month;
then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight.
[7]They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts
and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it.
[8]They shall eat the lamb that same night;
they shall eat it roasted over the fire
with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.
[9]Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water,
but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs.
[10]You shall let none of it remain until the morning;
anything that remains until the morning you shall burn.]

[11]This is how you shall eat it:
your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand;
and you shall eat it hurriedly.
It is the passover of the Lord.
[12]For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night,
and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt,
both human beings and animals;
on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments:
I am the Lord.
[13]The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live:
when I see the blood, I will pass over you,

and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.
14This day shall be a day of remembrance for you.
You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD;
throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: PSALM 116:1–2, 12–19 *Psalm 116:1, 10–17* LBW/BCP

SECOND READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 11:23–26

A reading from First Corinthians:

23For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you,
that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed
took a loaf of bread,
24and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said,
"This is my body that is for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."
25In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying,
"This cup is the new covenant in my blood.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

26For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup,
you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: JOHN 13:1–17, 31b–35

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 13th chapter.

1Now before the festival of the Passover,
Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world
and go to the Father.
Having loved his own who were in the world,
he loved them to the end.
2The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot
to betray him.

And during supper
3Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands,
and that he had come from God and was going to God,
4got up from the table,
took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself.
5Then he poured water into a basin
and began to wash the disciples' feet
and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him.

[6]He came to Simon Peter, who said to him,
"Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"
[7]Jesus answered,
"You do not know now what I am doing,
but later you will understand."
[8]Peter said to him,
"You will never wash my feet."
Jesus answered,
"Unless I wash you, you have no share with me."
[9]Simon Peter said to him,
"Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!"
[10]Jesus said to him,
"One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet,
but is entirely clean.
And you are clean, though not all of you."
[11]For he knew who was to betray him;
for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

[12]After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe,
and had returned to the table, he said to them,
"Do you know what I have done to you?
[13]You call me Teacher and Lord—
and you are right, for that is what I am.
[14]So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet,
you also ought to wash one another's feet.
[15]For I have set you an example,
that you also should do as I have done to you.
[16]Very truly, I tell you,
servants are not greater than their master,
nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them.
[17]If you know these things,
you are blessed if you do them.

[31b]"Now the Son of Man has been glorified,
and God has been glorified in him.
[32]If God has been glorified in him,
God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once.
[33]Little children, I am with you only a little longer.
You will look for me;
and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you,
'Where I am going, you cannot come.'

[34]"I give you a new commandment,
that you love one another.
Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.
[35]By this everyone will know that you are my disciples,
if you have love for one another."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Good Friday

MARCH 28, 1997 *APRIL 21, 2000* *APRIL 18, 2003*

FIRST READING: Isaiah 52:13—53:12

A reading from Isaiah:

13 See, my servant shall prosper;
he shall be exalted and lifted up,
and shall be very high.
14 Just as there were many who were astonished at him
—so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance,
and his form beyond that of mortals—
15 so he shall startle many nations;
kings shall shut their mouths because of him;
for that which had not been told them they shall see,
and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate.

53:1 Who has believed what we have heard?
And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?
2 For he grew up before him like a young plant,
and like a root out of dry ground;
he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.
3 He was despised and rejected by others;
a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity;
and as one from whom others hide their faces
he was despised, and we held him of no account.

4 Surely he has borne our infirmities
and carried our diseases;
yet we accounted him stricken,
struck down by God, and afflicted.
5 But he was wounded for our transgressions,
crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the punishment that made us whole,
and by his bruises we are healed.
6 All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have all turned to our own way,
and the Lord has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

[7]He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
yet he did not open his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.
[8]By a perversion of justice he was taken away.
Who could have imagined his future?
For he was cut off from the land of the living,
stricken for the transgression of my people.
[9]They made his grave with the wicked
and his tomb with the rich,
although he had done no violence,
and there was no deceit in his mouth.

[10]Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him with pain.
When you make his life an offering for sin,
he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days;
through him the will of the LORD shall prosper.
[11]Out of his anguish he shall see light;
he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge.
The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous,
and he shall bear their iniquities.
[12]Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great,
and he shall divide the spoil with the strong;
because he poured out himself to death,
and was numbered with the transgressors;
yet he bore the sin of many,
and made intercession for the transgressors.

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: PSALM 22

SECOND READING: HEBREWS 10:16–25

Or Hebrews 4:14–16; 5:7–9, following

A reading from Hebrews:

[16]"This is the covenant that I will make with them
after those days, says the Lord:
I will put my laws in their hearts,
and I will write them on their minds,"
[17]he also adds,
"I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more."
[18]Where there is forgiveness of these,
there is no longer any offering for sin.

19Therefore, my friends,
since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus,
20by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain
(that is, through his flesh),
21and since we have a great priest over the house of God,
22let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith,
with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience
and our bodies washed with pure water.
23Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering,
for he who has promised is faithful.
24And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds,
25not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some,
but encouraging one another,
and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

The word of the Lord.

OR: Hebrews 4:14–16; 5:7–9

A reading from Hebrews:

14Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed
through the heavens,
Jesus, the Son of God,
let us hold fast to our confession.
15For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our
weaknesses,
but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are,
yet without sin.
16Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness,
so that we may receive mercy and find grace
to help in time of need.

5:7In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications,
with loud cries and tears,
to the one who was able to save him from death,
and he was heard because of his reverent submission.
8Although he was a Son,
he learned obedience through what he suffered;
9and having been made perfect,
he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: JOHN 18:1—19:42

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

[1]Jesus went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley
to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered.
[2]Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place,
because Jesus often met there with his disciples.
[3]So Judas brought a detachment of soldiers together
with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees,
and they came there with lanterns and torches and weapons.
[4]Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him,
came forward and asked them,
"Whom are you looking for?"
[5]They answered, "Jesus of Nazareth."
Jesus replied, "I am he."
Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them.
[6]When Jesus said to them, "I am he,"
they stepped back and fell to the ground.
[7]Again he asked them, "Whom are you looking for?"
And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth."
[8]Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he.
So if you are looking for me, let these men go."
[9]This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken,
"I did not lose a single one of those whom you gave me."
[10]Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it,
struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear.
The slave's name was Malchus.
[11]Jesus said to Peter,
"Put your sword back into its sheath.
Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?"

[12]So the soldiers, their officer, and the Jewish police
arrested Jesus and bound him.
[13]First they took him to Annas,
who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year.
[14]Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews
that it was better to have one person die for the people.

[15]Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus.
Since that disciple was known to the high priest,
he went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest,
[16]but Peter was standing outside at the gate.
So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest,
went out, spoke to the woman who guarded the gate,
and brought Peter in.

17The woman said to Peter,
"You are not also one of this man's disciples, are you?"
He said, "I am not."
18Now the slaves and the police had made a charcoal fire because it was cold,
and they were standing around it and warming themselves.
Peter also was standing with them and warming himself.

19Then the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples
and about his teaching.
20Jesus answered, "I have spoken openly to the world;
I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple,
where all the Jews come together.
I have said nothing in secret.
21Why do you ask me?
Ask those who heard what I said to them; they know what I said."
22When he had said this,
one of the police standing nearby struck Jesus on the face, saying,
"Is that how you answer the high priest?"
23Jesus answered, "If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong.
But if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?"
24Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

25Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself.
They asked him, "You are not also one of his disciples, are you?"
He denied it and said, "I am not."
26One of the slaves of the high priest,
a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked,
"Did I not see you in the garden with him?"
27Again Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed.

28Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate's headquarters.
It was early in the morning.
They themselves did not enter the headquarters,
so as to avoid ritual defilement
and to be able to eat the Passover.
29So Pilate went out to them and said,
"What accusation do you bring against this man?"
30They answered, "If this man were not a criminal,
we would not have handed him over to you."
31Pilate said to them,
"Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law."
The Jews replied,
"We are not permitted to put anyone to death."
32(This was to fulfill what Jesus had said
when he indicated the kind of death he was to die.)

33Then Pilate entered the headquarters again,
summoned Jesus, and asked him,
"Are you the King of the Jews?"

34Jesus answered,
"Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?"
35Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I?
Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me.
What have you done?"
36Jesus answered,
"My kingdom is not from this world.
If my kingdom were from this world,
my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over
to the Jews.
But as it is, my kingdom is not from here."
37Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?"
Jesus answered,
"You say that I am a king. For this I was born,
and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth.
Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."
38Pilate asked him, "What is truth?"

After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them,
"I find no case against him.
39But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover.
Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?"
40They shouted in reply,
"Not this man, but Barabbas!"
Now Barabbas was a bandit.

19:1Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged.
2And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head,
and they dressed him in a purple robe.
3They kept coming up to him, saying,
"Hail, King of the Jews!" and striking him on the face.
4Pilate went out again and said to them,
"Look, I am bringing him out to you
to let you know that I find no case against him."
5So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe.
Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!"
6When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted,
"Crucify him! Crucify him!"
Pilate said to them,
"Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him."
7The Jews answered him,
"We have a law, and according to that law
he ought to die because he has claimed to be the Son of God."

8Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever.
9He entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus,
"Where are you from?"
But Jesus gave him no answer.

[10]Pilate therefore said to him,
"Do you refuse to speak to me?
Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?"
[11]Jesus answered him,
"You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above;
therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin."
[12]From then on Pilate tried to release him,
but the Jews cried out,
"If you release this man, you are no friend of the emperor.
Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against the emperor."

[13]When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside
and sat on the judge's bench at a place called The Stone Pavement,
or in Hebrew Gabbatha.
[14]Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover; and it was about noon.
He said to the Jews, "Here is your King!"
[15]They cried out,
"Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!"
Pilate asked them, "Shall I crucify your King?"
The chief priests answered,
"We have no king but the emperor."
[16]Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

So they took Jesus; [17]and carrying the cross by himself,
he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull,
which in Hebrew is called Golgotha.
[18]There they crucified him,
and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them.
[19]Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross.
It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews."
[20]Many of the Jews read this inscription,
because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city;
and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek.
[21]Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate,
"Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but,
'This man said, I am King of the Jews.' "
[22]Pilate answered,
"What I have written I have written."
[23]When the soldiers had crucified Jesus,
they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier.
They also took his tunic;
now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top.
[24]So they said to one another,
"Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it."
This was to fulfill what the scripture says,
"They divided my clothes among themselves,
and for my clothing they cast lots."
[25]And that is what the soldiers did.

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother,
and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.
[26]When Jesus saw his mother
and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her,
he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son."
[27]Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother."
And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

[28]After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished,
he said (in order to fulfill the scripture),
"I am thirsty."
[29]A jar full of sour wine was standing there.
So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop
and held it to his mouth.
[30]When Jesus had received the wine, he said,
"It is finished."
Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

[31]Since it was the day of Preparation,
the Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross during the sabbath,
especially because that sabbath was a day of great solemnity.
So they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken
and the bodies removed.
[32]Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first
and of the other who had been crucified with him.
[33]But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead,
they did not break his legs.
[34]Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear,
and at once blood and water came out.
[35](He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe.
His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.)
[36]These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled,
"None of his bones shall be broken."
[37]And again another passage of scripture says,
"They will look on the one whom they have pierced."

[38]After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus,
though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews,
asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus.
Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body.
[39]Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came,
bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds.
[40]They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths,
according to the burial custom of the Jews.
[41]Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified,
and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid.
[42]And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation,
and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Saturday in Holy Week

(for services other than the Vigil of Easter)

MARCH 29, 1997 APRIL 22, 2000 APRIL 19, 2003

FIRST READING: Job 14:1–14

Or Lamentations 3:1–9, 19–24, following

A reading from Job:

1"A mortal, born of woman, few of days and full of trouble,
2comes up like a flower and withers,
flees like a shadow and does not last.
3Do you fix your eyes on such a one?
Do you bring me into judgment with you?
4Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean?
No one can.
5Since their days are determined,
and the number of their months is known to you,
and you have appointed the bounds that they cannot pass,
6look away from them, and desist,
that they may enjoy, like laborers, their days.

7"For there is hope for a tree,
if it is cut down,that it will sprout again,
and that its shoots will not cease.
8Though its root grows old in the earth,
and its stump dies in the ground,
9yet at the scent of water it will bud
and put forth branches like a young plant.
10But mortals die, and are laid low;
humans expire, and where are they?
11As waters fail from a lake,
and a river wastes away and dries up,
12so mortals lie down and do not rise again;
until the heavens are no more, they will not awake
or be roused out of their sleep.
13O that you would hide me in Sheol,
that you would conceal me until your wrath is past,
that you would appoint me a set time, and remember me!
14If mortals die, will they live again?
All the days of my service I would wait
until my release should come."

The word of the Lord.

OR: LAMENTATIONS 3:1–9, 19–24

A reading from Lamentations:

[1]I am one who has seen affliction
under the rod of God's wrath;
[2]he has driven and brought me
into darkness without any light;
[3]against me alone he turns his hand,
again and again, all day long.

[4]He has made my flesh and my skin waste away,
and broken my bones;
[5]he has besieged and enveloped me
with bitterness and tribulation;
[6]he has made me sit in darkness
like the dead of long ago.

[7]He has walled me about so that I cannot escape;
he has put heavy chains on me;
[8]though I call and cry for help,
he shuts out my prayer;
[9]he has blocked my ways with hewn stones,
he has made my paths crooked.

[19]The thought of my affliction and my homelessness
is wormwood and gall!
[20]My soul continually thinks of it
and is bowed down within me.
[21]But this I call to mind,
and therefore I have hope:

[22]The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases,
his mercies never come to an end;
[23]they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.
[24]"The LORD is my portion," says my soul,
"therefore I will hope in him."

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: PSALM 31:1–4, 15–16

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 4:1–8

A reading from First Peter:

[1]Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh,
arm yourselves also with the same intention
(for whoever has suffered in the flesh has finished with sin),
[2]so as to live for the rest of your earthly life
no longer by human desires but by the will of God.
[3]You have already spent enough time in doing what the Gentiles like to do,
living in licentiousness, passions, drunkenness,
revels, carousing, and lawless idolatry.
[4]They are surprised that you no longer join them
in the same excesses of dissipation, and so they blaspheme.

[5]But they will have to give an accounting to him who stands ready
to judge the living and the dead.
[6]For this is the reason the gospel was proclaimed even to the dead,
so that, though they had been judged in the flesh as everyone is judged,
they might live in the spirit as God does.

[7]The end of all things is near;
therefore be serious and discipline yourselves for the sake of your prayers.
[8]Above all, maintain constant love for one another,
for love covers a multitude of sins.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 27:57–66

Or John 19:38–42, following

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 27th chapter:

[57]When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph,
who was also a disciple of Jesus.
[58]He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus;
then Pilate ordered it to be given to him.
[59]So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth
[60]and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock.
He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away.
[61]Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

[62]The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation,
the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate [63]and said,
"Sir, we remember what that impostor said while he was still alive,
'After three days I will rise again.'
[64]Therefore command the tomb to be made secure until the third day;
otherwise his disciples may go and steal him away,

and tell the people, 'He has been raised from the dead,'
and the last deception would be worse than the first."
65Pilate said to them,
"You have a guard of soldiers;
go, make it as secure as you can."
66So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.

The Gospel of the Lord.

OR: John 19:38–42

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 19th chapter.

38Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus,
though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews,
asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus.
Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body.
39Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came,
bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds.
40They took the body of Jesus
and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths,
according to the burial custom of the Jews.
41Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified,
and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid.
42And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation,
and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

The Gospel of the Lord.

The Resurrection of Our Lord
Vigil of Easter

MARCH 29, 1997 APRIL 22, 2000 APRIL 19, 2003

FIRST READING: Genesis 1:1—2:4a
Creation

A reading from Genesis:

[1]In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth,
[2]the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep,
while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.
[3]Then God said,
"Let there be light"; and there was light.
[4]And God saw that the light was good;
and God separated the light from the darkness.
[5]God called the light Day,
and the darkness he called Night.
And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

[6]And God said,
"Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters,
and let it separate the waters from the waters."
[7]So God made the dome
and separated the waters that were under the dome
from the waters that were above the dome.
And it was so.
[8]God called the dome Sky.
And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

[9]And God said,
"Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place,
and let the dry land appear."
And it was so.
[10]God called the dry land Earth,
and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas.
And God saw that it was good.
[11]Then God said,
"Let the earth put forth vegetation:
plants yielding seed,
and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it."
And it was so.
[12]The earth brought forth vegetation:

plants yielding seed of every kind,
and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it.
And God saw that it was good.
13And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

14And God said,
"Let there be lights in the dome of the sky
to separate the day from the night;
and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years,
15and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth."
And it was so.
16God made the two great lights—
the greater light to rule the day
and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars.
17God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth,
18to rule over the day and over the night,
and to separate the light from the darkness.
And God saw that it was good.
19And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

20And God said,
"Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures,
and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky."
21So God created the great sea monsters
and every living creature that moves,
of every kind, with which the waters swarm,
and every winged bird of every kind.
And God saw that it was good.
22God blessed them, saying,
"Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas,
and let birds multiply on the earth."
23And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

24And God said,
"Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind:
cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind."
And it was so.
25God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind,
and the cattle of every kind,
and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind.
And God saw that it was good.

26Then God said,
"Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness;
and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea,
and over the birds of the air,
and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth,
and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

27So God created humankind in his image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.
28God blessed them, and God said to them,
"Be fruitful and multiply,
and fill the earth and subdue it;
and have dominion over the fish of the sea
and over the birds of the air
and over every living thing that moves upon the earth."
29God said,
"See, I have given you every plant yielding seed
that is upon the face of all the earth,
and every tree with seed in its fruit;
you shall have them for food.
30And to every beast of the earth,
and to every bird of the air,
and to everything that creeps on the earth,
everything that has the breath of life,
I have given every green plant for food."
And it was so.
31God saw everything that he had made,
and indeed, it was very good.
And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

2:1Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude.
2And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done,
and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done.
3So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it,
because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.
4These are the generations of the heavens and the earth
when they were created.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSE: PSALM 136:1–9, 23–26

SECOND READING: GENESIS 7:1–5, 11–18; 8:6–18; 9:8–13
The Flood

A reading from Genesis:

1The LORD said to Noah,
"Go into the ark, you and all your household,
for I have seen that you alone are righteous before me in this generation.
2Take with you seven pairs of all clean animals,
the male and its mate;
and a pair of the animals that are not clean,
the male and its mate;
3and seven pairs of the birds of the air also, male and female,
to keep their kind alive on the face of all the earth.
4For in seven days I will send rain on the earth
for forty days and forty nights;
and every living thing that I have made
I will blot out from the face of the ground."
5And Noah did all that the LORD had commanded him.

11In the six hundredth year of Noah's life,
in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month,
on that day all the fountains of the great deep burst forth,
and the windows of the heavens were opened.
12The rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights.
13On the very same day Noah with his sons,
Shem and Ham and Japheth,
and Noah's wife and the three wives of his sons entered the ark,
14they and every wild animal of every kind,
and all domestic animals of every kind,
and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth,
and every bird of every kind—every bird, every winged creature.
15They went into the ark with Noah,
two and two of all flesh in which there was the breath of life.
16And those that entered, male and female of all flesh,
went in as God had commanded him;
and the LORD shut him in.

17The flood continued forty days on the earth;
and the waters increased,
and bore up the ark, and it rose high above the earth.
18The waters swelled and increased greatly on the earth;
and the ark floated on the face of the waters.

8:6At the end of forty days
Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made
7and sent out the raven;
and it went to and fro until the waters were dried up from the earth.
8Then he sent out the dove from him,
to see if the waters had subsided from the face of the ground;
9but the dove found no place to set its foot,

and it returned to him to the ark,
for the waters were still on the face of the whole earth.
So he put out his hand and took it
and brought it into the ark with him.
10He waited another seven days,
and again he sent out the dove from the ark;
11and the dove came back to him in the evening,
and there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf;
so Noah knew that the waters had subsided from the earth.
12Then he waited another seven days, and sent out the dove;
and it did not return to him any more.

13In the six hundred first year,
in the first month, on the first day of the month,
the waters were dried up from the earth;
and Noah removed the covering of the ark,
and looked, and saw that the face of the ground was drying.
14In the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month,
the earth was dry.
15Then God said to Noah,
16"Go out of the ark, you and your wife,
and your sons and your sons' wives with you.
17Bring out with you every living thing that is with you of all flesh—
birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth—
so that they may abound on the earth,
and be fruitful and multiply on the earth."
18So Noah went out with his sons and his wife and his sons' wives.

9:8Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him,
9"As for me,
I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you,
10and with every living creature that is with you,
the birds, the domestic animals,
and every animal of the earth with you,
as many as came out of the ark.
11I establish my covenant with you,
that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood,
and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth."
12God said,
"This is the sign of the covenant that I make
between me and you and every living creature that is with you,
for all future generations:
13I have set my bow in the clouds,
and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth."

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSE: PSALM 46

THIRD READING: Genesis 22:1–18
The Testing of Abraham

A reading from Genesis:

[1]God tested Abraham.
He said to him, "Abraham!"
And he said, "Here I am."
[2]God said,
"Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love,
and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering
on one of the mountains that I shall show you."

[3]So Abraham rose early in the morning,
saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him,
and his son Isaac;
he cut the wood for the burnt offering,
and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him.
[4]On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away.
[5]Then Abraham said to his young men,
"Stay here with the donkey;
the boy and I will go over there;
we will worship, and then we will come back to you."

[6]Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering
and laid it on his son Isaac,
and he himself carried the fire and the knife.
So the two of them walked on together.
[7]Isaac said to his father Abraham, "Father!"
And he said, "Here I am, my son."
He said, "The fire and the wood are here,
but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?"
[8]Abraham said,
"God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son."
So the two of them walked on together.

[9]When they came to the place that God had shown him,
Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order.
He bound his son Isaac,
and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood.
[10]Then Abraham reached out his hand
and took the knife to kill his son.
[11]But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, and said,
"Abraham, Abraham!"
And he said, "Here I am."
[12]He said,
"Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him;
for now I know that you fear God,
since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me."

13And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns.
Abraham went and took the ram
and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son.
14So Abraham called that place "The LORD will provide";
as it is said to this day,
"On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided."

15The angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven,
16and said,
"By myself I have sworn, says the LORD:
Because you have done this,
and have not withheld your son, your only son,
17I will indeed bless you,
and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven
and as the sand that is on the seashore.
And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies,
18and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth
gain blessing for themselves,
because you have obeyed my voice."

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSE: PSALM 16

FOURTH READING: Exodus 14:10–31; 15:20–21
Israel's Deliverance at the Red Sea

A reading from Exodus:

10As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back,
and there were the Egyptians advancing on them.
In great fear the Israelites cried out to the Lord.
11They said to Moses,
"Was it because there were no graves in Egypt
that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness?
What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt?
12Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt,
'Let us alone and let us serve the Egyptians'?
For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians
than to die in the wilderness."
13But Moses said to the people,
"Do not be afraid, stand firm,
and see the deliverance that the Lord will accomplish for you today;
for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again.
14The Lord will fight for you,
and you have only to keep still."

15Then the Lord said to Moses,
"Why do you cry out to me?
Tell the Israelites to go forward.
16But you lift up your staff,
and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it,
that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground.
17Then I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians
so that they will go in after them;
and so I will gain glory for myself over Pharaoh and all his army,
his chariots, and his chariot drivers.
18And the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord,
when I have gained glory for myself over Pharaoh,
his chariots, and his chariot drivers."

19The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved
and went behind them;
and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them
and took its place behind them.
20It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel.
And so the cloud was there with the darkness,
and it lit up the night;
one did not come near the other all night.

21Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea.
The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night,
and turned the sea into dry land;

and the waters were divided.
22The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground,
the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.
23The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them,
all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers.
24At the morning watch
the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army,
and threw the Egyptian army into panic.
25He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty.
The Egyptians said,
"Let us flee from the Israelites,
for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

26Then the LORD said to Moses,
"Stretch out your hand over the sea,
so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians,
upon their chariots and chariot drivers."
27So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea,
and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth.
As the Egyptians fled before it,
the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea.
28The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers,
the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea;
not one of them remained.
29But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea,
the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

30Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians;
and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore.
31Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians.
So the people feared the LORD
and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

15:20Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand;
and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing.
21And Miriam sang to them:

> "Sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously;
> horse and rider he has thrown into the sea."

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSE: EXODUS 15:1b–13, 17–18

FIFTH READING: Isaiah 55:1–11
Salvation Freely Offered to All

A reading from Isaiah:

[1]Ho, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and you that have no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.
[2]Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.

[3]Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.
[4]See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.
[5]See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.

[6]Seek the Lord while he may be found,
call upon him while he is near;
[7]let the wicked forsake their way,
and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
[8]For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.
[9]For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

[10]For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
[11]so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSE: Isaiah 12:2–6

SIXTH READING: Proverbs 8:1–8, 19–21; 9:4b–6

The Wisdom of God

Alternate Reading: Baruch 3:9–15, 32—4:4 (p. 404)

A reading from Proverbs:

[1]Does not wisdom call,
and does not understanding raise her voice?
[2]On the heights, beside the way,
at the crossroads she takes her stand;
[3]beside the gates in front of the town,
at the entrance of the portals she cries out:
[4]"To you, O people, I call,
and my cry is to all that live.
[5]O simple ones, learn prudence;
acquire intelligence, you who lack it.
[6]Hear, for I will speak noble things,
and from my lips will come what is right;
[7]for my mouth will utter truth;
wickedness is an abomination to my lips.
[8]All the words of my mouth are righteous;
there is nothing twisted or crooked in them.

[19]My fruit is better than gold, even fine gold,
and my yield than choice silver.
[20]I walk in the way of righteousness,
along the paths of justice,
[21]endowing with wealth those who love me,
and filling their treasuries.
[9:4b]To those without sense she says,
[5]"Come, eat of my bread
and drink of the wine I have mixed.
[6]Lay aside immaturity, and live,
and walk in the way of insight."

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSE: Psalm 19

SEVENTH READING: Ezekiel 36:24–28
A New Heart and a New Spirit

A reading from Ezekiel:

Thus says the Lord God:
24I will take you from the nations,
and gather you from all the countries,
and bring you into your own land.
25I will sprinkle clean water upon you,
and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses,
and from all your idols I will cleanse you.
26A new heart I will give you,
and a new spirit I will put within you;
and I will remove from your body the heart of stone
and give you a heart of flesh.
27I will put my spirit within you,
and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances.
28Then you shall live in the land that I gave to your ancestors;
and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSE: Psalm 42 and 43

EIGHTH READING: Ezekiel 37:1–14
The Valley of the Dry Bones

A reading from Ezekiel:

1The hand of the Lord came upon me,
and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord
and set me down in the middle of a valley;
it was full of bones.
2He led me all around them;
there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry.
3He said to me,
"Mortal, can these bones live?"
I answered, "O Lord God, you know."

4Then he said to me,
"Prophesy to these bones, and say to them:
O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord.
5Thus says the Lord God to these bones:
I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live.
6I will lay sinews on you,
and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin,

and put breath in you, and you shall live;
and you shall know that I am the LORD."

7So I prophesied as I had been commanded;
and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling,
and the bones came together, bone to its bone.
8I looked, and there were sinews on them,
and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them;
but there was no breath in them.
9Then he said to me,
"Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath:
Thus says the Lord GOD:
Come from the four winds, O breath,
and breathe upon these slain, that they may live."
10I prophesied as he commanded me,
and the breath came into them,
and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

11Then he said to me,
"Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel.
They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost;
we are cut off completely.'
12Therefore prophesy, and say to them,
Thus says the Lord GOD:
I am going to open your graves,
and bring you up from your graves, O my people;
and I will bring you back to the land of Israel.
13And you shall know that I am the LORD,
when I open your graves,
and bring you up from your graves, O my people.
14I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live,
and I will place you on your own soil;
then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act,"
says the LORD.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSE: PSALM 143

NINTH READING: Zephaniah 3:14–20
The Gathering of God's People

A reading from Zephaniah:

14Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!
15The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,
he has turned away your enemies.
The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.
16On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
Do not fear, O Zion;
do not let your hands grow weak.
17The LORD, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;
he will rejoice over you with gladness,
he will renew you in his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing
18as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.
19I will deal with all your oppressors
at that time.
And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.
20At that time I will bring you home,
at the time when I gather you;
for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes, says the LORD.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSE: Psalm 98

Three additional readings from the Hebrew Scriptures follow on pp. 140–144.
The New Testament and Gospel readings continue on p. 145.

TENTH READING: Jonah 3:1–10
The Call of Jonah

A reading from Jonah.

[1]The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying,
[2]"Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city,
and proclaim to it the message that I tell you."
[3]So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord.

Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across.
[4]Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk.
And he cried out,
"Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!"
[5]And the people of Nineveh believed God;
they proclaimed a fast,
and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

[6]When the news reached the king of Nineveh,
he rose from his throne, removed his robe,
covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes.
[7]Then he had a proclamation made in Nineveh:
"By the decree of the king and his nobles:
No human being or animal, no herd or flock, shall taste anything.
They shall not feed, nor shall they drink water.
[8]Human beings and animals shall be covered with sackcloth,
and they shall cry mightily to God.
All shall turn from their evil ways
and from the violence that is in their hands.
[9]Who knows? God may relent and change his mind;
he may turn from his fierce anger, so that we do not perish."
[10]When God saw what they did,
how they turned from their evil ways,
God changed his mind about the calamity
that he had said he would bring upon them;
and he did not do it.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSE: Jonah 2:1–3 [4–6] 7–9

ELEVENTH READING: Deuteronomy 31:19–30
The Song of Moses

A reading from Deuteronomy.

19 Now therefore write this song,
and teach it to the Israelites;
put it in their mouths,
in order that this song may be a witness for me against the Israelites.

20 For when I have brought them into the land flowing with milk and honey,
which I promised on oath to their ancestors,
and they have eaten their fill and grown fat,
they will turn to other gods and serve them,
despising me and breaking my covenant.
21 And when many terrible troubles come upon them,
this song will confront them as a witness,
because it will not be lost from the mouths of their descendants.
For I know what they are inclined to do even now,
before I have brought them into the land that I promised them on oath."
22 That very day Moses wrote this song and taught it to the Israelites.

23 Then the Lord commissioned Joshua son of Nun and said,
"Be strong and bold,
for you shall bring the Israelites into the land that I promised them;
I will be with you."

24 When Moses had finished writing down in a book
the words of this law to the very end,
25 Moses commanded the Levites who carried the ark of the covenant of the
Lord, saying,
26 "Take this book of the law
and put it beside the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God;
let it remain there as a witness against you.
27 For I know well how rebellious and stubborn you are.
If you already have been so rebellious toward the Lord
while I am still alive among you,
how much more after my death!
28 Assemble to me all the elders of your tribes and your officials,
so that I may recite these words in their hearing
and call heaven and earth to witness against them.
29 For I know that after my death you will surely act corruptly,
turning aside from the way that I have commanded you.
In time to come trouble will befall you,
because you will do what is evil in the sight of the Lord,
provoking him to anger through the work of your hands."

[30]Then Moses recited the words of this song, to the very end,
in the hearing of the whole assembly of Israel.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSE: DEUTERONOMY 32:1–4, 7, 36a, 43a

TWELFTH READING: DANIEL 3:1–29

A reading from Daniel.

[1]King Nebuchadnezzar made a golden statue whose height was sixty cubits
and whose width was six cubits;
he set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon.
[2]Then King Nebuchadnezzar sent for the satraps, the prefects,
and the governors,
the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates,
and all the officials of the provinces,
to assemble and come to the dedication of the statue
that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

[3]So the satraps, the prefects, and the governors,
the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates,
and all the officials of the provinces,
assembled for the dedication of the statue
that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.
When they were standing before the statue that Nebuchadnezzar had set up,
[4]the herald proclaimed aloud,
"You are commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages,
[5]that when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre,
trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble,
you are to fall down and worship the golden statue
that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up.
[6]Whoever does not fall down and worship
shall immediately be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire."
[7]Therefore, as soon as all the peoples heard the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre,
trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble,
all the peoples, nations, and languages fell down
and worshiped the golden statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

[8]Accordingly, at this time
certain Chaldeans came forward and denounced the Jews.
[9]They said to King Nebuchadnezzar,
"O king, live forever!
[10]You, O king, have made a decree,
that everyone who hears the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre,
trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble,
shall fall down and worship the golden statue,

[11]and whoever does not fall down and worship
shall be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire.
[12]There are certain Jews
whom you have appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon:
Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.
These pay no heed to you, O king.
They do not serve your gods
and they do not worship the golden statue that you have set up."

[13]Then Nebuchadnezzar in furious rage
commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought in;
so they brought those men before the king.
[14]Nebuchadnezzar said to them,
"Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego,
that you do not serve my gods
and you do not worship the golden statue that I have set up?
[15]Now if you are ready when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre,
trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble
to fall down and worship the statue that I have made,
well and good.
But if you do not worship,
you shall immediately be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire,
and who is the god that will deliver you out of my hands?"

[16]Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered the king,
"O Nebuchadnezzar,
we have no need to present a defense to you in this matter.
[17]If our God whom we serve is able to deliver us
from the furnace of blazing fire and out of your hand, O king,
let him deliver us.
[18]But if not, be it known to you, O king,
that we will not serve your gods
and we will not worship the golden statue that you have set up."

[19]Then Nebuchadnezzar was so filled with rage
against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego
that his face was distorted.
He ordered the furnace heated up seven times more than was customary,
[20]and ordered some of the strongest guards in his army
to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego
and to throw them into the furnace of blazing fire.
[21]So the men were bound, still wearing their tunics,
their trousers, their hats, and their other garments,
and they were thrown into the furnace of blazing fire.
[22]Because the king's command was urgent and the furnace was so overheated,
the raging flames killed the men who lifted Shadrach, Meshach, and
Abednego.

[23]But the three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell down,
bound, into the furnace of blazing fire.

[24]Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up quickly.
He said to his counselors,
"Was it not three men that we threw bound into the fire?"
They answered the king, "True, O king."
[25]He replied, "But I see four men unbound,
walking in the middle of the fire,
and they are not hurt;
and the fourth has the appearance of a god."

[26]Nebuchadnezzar then approached the door of the furnace of blazing fire
and said,
"Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego,
servants of the Most High God,
come out! Come here!"
So Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out from the fire.
[27]And the satraps, the prefects, the governors,
and the king's counselors gathered together
and saw that the fire had not had any power over the bodies of those men;
the hair of their heads was not singed,
their tunics were not harmed,
and not even the smell of fire came from them.

[28]Nebuchadnezzar said,
"Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego,
who has sent his angel and delivered his servants who trusted in him.
They disobeyed the king's command and yielded up their bodies
rather than serve and worship any god except their own God.
[29]Therefore I make a decree:
Any people, nation, or language that utters blasphemy
against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego
shall be torn limb from limb,
and their houses laid in ruins;
for there is no other god who is able to deliver in this way."

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSE: SONG OF THE THREE YOUNG MEN 35–65

NEW TESTAMENT READING: ROMANS 6:3–11

A reading from Romans:

[3]Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus
were baptized into his death?
[4]Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death,
so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father,
so we too might walk in newness of life.

[5]For if we have been united with him in a death like his,
we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.
[6]We know that our old self was crucified with him
so that the body of sin might be destroyed,
and we might no longer be enslaved to sin.
[7]For whoever has died is freed from sin.
[8]But if we have died with Christ,
we believe that we will also live with him.
[9]We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again;
death no longer has dominion over him.
[10]The death he died, he died to sin, once for all;
but the life he lives, he lives to God.

[11]So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin
and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSE: PSALM 114

GOSPEL: Mark 16:1–8

The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 16th chapter.

[1]When the sabbath was over,
Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices,
so that they might go and anoint him.
[2]And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen,
they went to the tomb.
[3]They had been saying to one another,
"Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?"
[4]When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large,
had already been rolled back.
[5]As they entered the tomb,
they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe,
sitting on the right side;
and they were alarmed.
[6]But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed;
you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified.
He has been raised; he is not here.
Look, there is the place they laid him.
[7]But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee;
there you will see him, just as he told you."

[8]So they went out and fled from the tomb,
for terror and amazement had seized them;
and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Season of Easter

The Resurrection of Our Lord
Easter Day

MARCH 30, 1997 APRIL 23, 2000 APRIL 20, 2003

FIRST READING: Acts 10:34–43
Or Isaiah 25:6–9, following

A reading from Acts:

34Peter began to speak to the people:
"I truly understand that God shows no partiality,
35but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right
is acceptable to him.
36You know the message he sent to the people of Israel,
preaching peace by Jesus Christ—
he is Lord of all.
37That message spread throughout Judea,
beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced:
38how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power;
how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the
devil,
for God was with him.
39We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem.
They put him to death by hanging him on a tree;
40but God raised him on the third day
and allowed him to appear, 41not to all the people
but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses,
and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.

42"He commanded us to preach to the people
and to testify that he is the one ordained by God
as judge of the living and the dead.
43All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him
receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

The word of the Lord.

OR: Isaiah 25:6–9

A reading from Isaiah:

6On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.
7And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the sheet that is spread over all nations;
he will swallow up death forever.
8Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the Lord has spoken.
9It will be said on that day,
Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.
This is the Lord for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 118:1–2, 14–24

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:1–11
Or Acts 10:34–43, following

A reading from First Corinthians:

1Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters,
of the good news that I proclaimed to you,
which you in turn received, in which also you stand,
2through which also you are being saved,
if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—
unless you have come to believe in vain.

3For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received:
that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures,
4and that he was buried,
and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures,
5and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.
6Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time,
most of whom are still alive, though some have died.
7Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles.
8Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.
9For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle,
because I persecuted the church of God.
10But by the grace of God I am what I am,

and his grace toward me has not been in vain.
On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—
though it was not I,
but the grace of God that is with me.
[11]Whether then it was I or they,
so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

The word of the Lord.

OR: Acts 10:34–43

A reading from Acts:

[34]Peter began to speak to the people:
"I truly understand that God shows no partiality,
[35]but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right
is acceptable to him.
[36]You know the message he sent to the people of Israel,
preaching peace by Jesus Christ—
he is Lord of all.
[37]That message spread throughout Judea,
beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced:
[38]how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power;
how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the
devil,
for God was with him.
[39]We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem.
They put him to death by hanging him on a tree;
[40]but God raised him on the third day
and allowed him to appear, [41]not to all the people
but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses,
and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.

[42]"He commanded us to preach to the people
and to testify that he is the one ordained by God
as judge of the living and the dead.
[43]All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him
receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: JOHN 20:1–18

Or Mark 16:1–8, following

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 20th chapter.

[1]Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark,
Mary Magdalene came to the tomb
and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb.
[2]So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple,
the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them,
"They have taken the Lord out of the tomb,
and we do not know where they have laid him."

[3]Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb.
[4]The two were running together,
but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first.
[5]He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there,
but he did not go in.
[6]Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb.
He saw the linen wrappings lying there,
[7]and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head,
not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself.
[8]Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first,
also went in, and he saw and believed;
[9]for as yet they did not understand the scripture,
that he must rise from the dead.
[10]Then the disciples returned to their homes.

[11]But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb.
As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb;
[12]and she saw two angels in white,
sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying,
one at the head and the other at the feet.
[13]They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?"
She said to them,
"They have taken away my Lord,
and I do not know where they have laid him."
[14]When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there,
but she did not know that it was Jesus.
[15]Jesus said to her,
"Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?"
Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him,
"Sir, if you have carried him away,
tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away."
[16]Jesus said to her, "Mary!"
She turned and said to him in Hebrew,
"Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher).
[17]Jesus said to her,

"Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father.
But go to my brothers and say to them,
'I am ascending to my Father and your Father,
to my God and your God.' "

18Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples,
"I have seen the Lord";
and she told them that he had said these things to her.

The Gospel of the Lord.

OR: MARK 16:1–8

The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 16th chapter.

1When the sabbath was over,
Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices,
so that they might go and anoint him.
2And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen,
they went to the tomb.
3They had been saying to one another,
"Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?"
4When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large,
had already been rolled back.
5As they entered the tomb,
they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side;
and they were alarmed.
6But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed;
you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified.
He has been raised; he is not here.
Look, there is the place they laid him.
7But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee;
there you will see him, just as he told you."

8So they went out and fled from the tomb,
for terror and amazement had seized them;
and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

The Gospel of the Lord.

The Resurrection of Our Lord
Easter Evening

MARCH 30, 1997 *APRIL 23, 2000* *APRIL 20, 2003*

FIRST READING: Isaiah 25:6–9

A reading from Isaiah:

6 On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.
7 And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the sheet that is spread over all nations;
he will swallow up death forever.
8 Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the Lord has spoken.

9 It will be said on that day,
Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.
This is the Lord for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 114

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 5:6b–8

A reading from First Corinthians:

6b Do you not know that a little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough?
7 Clean out the old yeast so that you may be a new batch,
as you really are unleavened.
For our paschal lamb, Christ, has been sacrificed.
8 Therefore, let us celebrate the festival,
not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and evil,
but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 24:13–49

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 24th chapter.

13Now on that same day when Jesus had appeared to Mary Magdalene,
two of them were going to a village called Emmaus,
about seven miles from Jerusalem,
14and talking with each other about all these things that had happened.
15While they were talking and discussing,
Jesus himself came near and went with them,
16but their eyes were kept from recognizing him.
17And he said to them,
"What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?"
They stood still, looking sad.
18Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him,
"Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem
who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?"
19He asked them, "What things?"
They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth,
who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people,
20and how our chief priests and leaders
handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him.
21But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel.
Yes, and besides all this,
it is now the third day since these things took place.
22Moreover, some women of our group astounded us.
They were at the tomb early this morning,
23and when they did not find his body there, they came back
and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels
who said that he was alive.
24Some of those who were with us went to the tomb
and found it just as the women had said;
but they did not see him."

25Then he said to them,
"Oh, how foolish you are,
and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared!
26Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things
and then enter into his glory?"
27Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets,
he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

28As they came near the village to which they were going,
he walked ahead as if he were going on.
29But they urged him strongly, saying,
"Stay with us,
because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over."
So he went in to stay with them.

30When he was at the table with them,
he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them.
31Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him;
and he vanished from their sight.
32They said to each other,
"Were not our hearts burning within us
while he was talking to us on the road,
while he was opening the scriptures to us?"

33That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem;
and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together.
34They were saying,
"The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!"
35Then they told what had happened on the road,
and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

36While they were talking about this,
Jesus himself stood among them and said to them,
"Peace be with you."
37They were startled and terrified,
and thought that they were seeing a ghost.
38He said to them,
"Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?
39Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself.
Touch me and see;
for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have."
40And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet.
41While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering,
he said to them,
"Have you anything here to eat?"
42They gave him a piece of broiled fish,
43and he took it and ate in their presence.

44Then he said to them,
"These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—
that everything written about me
in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled."
45Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures,
46and he said to them,
"Thus it is written,
that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day,
47and that repentance and forgiveness of sins
is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.
48You are witnesses of these things.
49And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised;
so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Second Sunday of Easter

APRIL 6, 1997 APRIL 30, 2000 APRIL 27, 2003

FIRST READING: Acts 4:32–35

A reading from Acts:

32Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul,
and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions,
but everything they owned was held in common.
33With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the
Lord Jesus,
and great grace was upon them all.
34There was not a needy person among them,
for as many as owned lands or houses sold them
and brought the proceeds of what was sold.
35They laid it at the apostles' feet,
and it was distributed to each as any had need.

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 133

SECOND READING: 1 John 1:1—2:2

A reading from First John:

1We declare to you what was from the beginning,
what we have heard,
what we have seen with our eyes,
what we have looked at and touched with our hands,
concerning the word of life—
2this life was revealed,
and we have seen it and testify to it,
and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—
3we declare to you what we have seen and heard
so that you also may have fellowship with us;
and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.
4We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

5This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you,
that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all.
6If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness,
we lie and do not do what is true;
7but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light,
we have fellowship with one another,
and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.
8If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves,
and the truth is not in us.
9If we confess our sins,
he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins
and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
10If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar,
and his word is not in us.

2:1My little children,
I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin.
But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father,
Jesus Christ the righteous;
2and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins,
and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: John 20:19–31

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 20th chapter.

19When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week,
and the doors of the house where the disciples had met
were locked for fear of the Jews,
Jesus came and stood among them and said,
"Peace be with you."
20After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side.
Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.
21Jesus said to them again,
"Peace be with you.
As the Father has sent me, so I send you."
22When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them,
"Receive the Holy Spirit.
23If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them;
if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

24But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve,
was not with them when Jesus came.
25So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord."
But he said to them,
"Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands,
and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side,
I will not believe."

26A week later his disciples were again in the house,
and Thomas was with them.
Although the doors were shut,
Jesus came and stood among them and said,
"Peace be with you."
27Then he said to Thomas,
"Put your finger here and see my hands.
Reach out your hand and put it in my side.
Do not doubt but believe."
28Thomas answered him,
"My Lord and my God!"
29Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me?
Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

30Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples,
which are not written in this book.
31But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the
Messiah, the Son of God,
and that through believing you may have life in his name.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Third Sunday of Easter

APRIL 13, 1997 MAY 7, 2000 MAY 4, 2003

FIRST READING: Acts 3:12–19

A reading from Acts:

12Peter addressed the people,
"You Israelites, why do you wonder at this,
or why do you stare at us,
as though by our own power or piety we had made this man walk?
13The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob,
the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus,
whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate,
though he had decided to release him.
14But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One
and asked to have a murderer given to you,
15and you killed the Author of life,
whom God raised from the dead.
To this we are witnesses.
16And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong,
whom you see and know;
and the faith that is through Jesus
has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

17"And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers.
18In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets,
that his Messiah would suffer.
19Repent therefore, and turn to God
so that your sins may be wiped out."

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 4

SECOND READING: 1 John 3:1–7

A reading from First John:

[1]See what love the Father has given us,
that we should be called children of God;
and that is what we are.
The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.
[2]Beloved, we are God's children now;
what we will be has not yet been revealed.
What we do know is this:
when he is revealed, we will be like him,
for we will see him as he is.
[3]And all who have this hope in him purify themselves,
just as he is pure.

[4]Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness;
sin is lawlessness.
[5]You know that he was revealed to take away sins,
and in him there is no sin.
[6]No one who abides in him sins;
no one who sins has either seen him or known him.
[7]Little children, let no one deceive you.
Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

The word of the Lord.

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 24th chapter.

[36b]Jesus himself stood among them and said to them,
"Peace be with you."
[37]They were startled and terrified,
and thought that they were seeing a ghost.
[38]He said to them,
"Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?
[39]Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself.
Touch me and see:
for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have."
[40]And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet.
[41]While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering,
he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?"
[42]They gave him a piece of broiled fish,
[43]and he took it and ate in their presence.

[44]Then he said to them,
"These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—
that everything written about me
in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled."
[45]Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures,
[46]and he said to them,
"Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer
and to rise from the dead on the third day,
[47]and that repentance and forgiveness of sins
is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations,
beginning from Jerusalem.
[48]You are witnesses of these things."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Fourth Sunday of Easter

APRIL 20, 1997 MAY 14, 2000 MAY 11, 2003

FIRST READING: Acts 4:5–12

A reading from Acts:

5The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem,
6with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander,
and all who were of the high-priestly family.
7When they had made the prisoners Peter and John stand in their midst,
they inquired,
"By what power or by what name did you do this?"
8Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them,
"Rulers of the people and elders,
9if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick
and are asked how this man has been healed,
10let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel,
that this man is standing before you in good health
by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth,
whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead.
11This Jesus is
'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;
it has become the cornerstone.'
12There is salvation in no one else,
for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals
by which we must be saved."

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 23

SECOND READING: 1 John 3:16–24

A reading from First John:

16We know love by this,
that Jesus Christ laid down his life for us—
and we ought to lay down our lives for one another.
17How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods
and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

18Little children, let us love, not in word or speech,
but in truth and action.
19And by this we will know that we are from the truth
and will reassure our hearts before him 20whenever our hearts condemn us;
for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.
21Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us,
we have boldness before God;
22and we receive from him whatever we ask,
because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

23And this is his commandment,
that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ
and love one another, just as he has commanded us.
24All who obey his commandments abide in him,
and he abides in them.
And by this we know that he abides in us,
by the Spirit that he has given us.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: John 10:11–18

The Holy Gospel according to John, the tenth chapter.

Jesus said:
11"I am the good shepherd.
The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.
12The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep,
sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—
and the wolf snatches them and scatters them.
13The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep.
14I am the good shepherd.
I know my own and my own know me,
15just as the Father knows me and I know the Father.
And I lay down my life for the sheep.
16I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold.
I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice.
So there will be one flock, one shepherd.
17For this reason the Father loves me,
because I lay down my life in order to take it up again.
18No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord.
I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again.
I have received this command from my Father."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Fifth Sunday of Easter

APRIL 27, 1997 MAY 21, 2000 MAY 18, 2003

FIRST READING: Acts 8:26–40

A reading from Acts:

26 An angel of the Lord said to Philip,
"Get up and go toward the south
to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza."
(This is a wilderness road.)
27 So he got up and went.
Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch,
a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians,
in charge of her entire treasury.
He had come to Jerusalem to worship 28 and was returning home;
seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah.
29 Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it."
30 So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah.
He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?"
31 He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?"
And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him.
32 Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:
"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.
33 In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth."
34 The eunuch asked Philip,
"About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this,
about himself or about someone else?"
35 Then Philip began to speak,
and starting with this scripture,
he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus.

36 As they were going along the road, they came to some water;
and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water!
What is to prevent me from being baptized?"
38 He commanded the chariot to stop,
and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water,
and Philip baptized him.

39When they came up out of the water,
the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away;
the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.
40But Philip found himself at Azotus,
and as he was passing through the region,
he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: PSALM 22:25–31 *Psalm 22:24–30* LBW/BCP

SECOND READING: 1 JOHN 4:7–21

A reading from First John:

7Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God;
everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.
8Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.
9God's love was revealed among us in this way:
God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him.
10In this is love,
not that we loved God but that he loved us
and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.
11Beloved, since God loved us so much,
we also ought to love one another.
12No one has ever seen God;
if we love one another,
God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

13By this we know that we abide in him and he in us,
because he has given us of his Spirit.
14And we have seen and do testify
that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world.
15God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God,
and they abide in God.
16So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God,
and God abides in them.
17Love has been perfected among us in this:
that we may have boldness on the day of judgment,
because as he is, so are we in this world.
18There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear;
for fear has to do with punishment,
and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love.
19We love because he first loved us.
20Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars;

for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen,
cannot love God whom they have not seen.
21The commandment we have from him is this:
those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: John 15:1–8

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 15th chapter.

Jesus said:
1"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower.
2He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit.
Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit.
3You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you.
4Abide in me as I abide in you.
Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine,
neither can you unless you abide in me.
5I am the vine, you are the branches.
Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit,
because apart from me you can do nothing.
6Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers;
such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.

7"If you abide in me, and my words abide in you,
ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.
8My Father is glorified by this,
that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Sixth Sunday of Easter

MAY 4, 1997 MAY 28, 2000 MAY 25, 2003

FIRST READING: Acts 10:44–48

A reading from Acts:

44While Peter was still speaking,
the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word.
45The circumcised believers who had come with Peter
were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit
had been poured out even on the Gentiles,
46for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God.
Then Peter said,
47"Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people
who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?"
48So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.
Then they invited him to stay for several days.

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 98

SECOND READING: 1 John 5:1–6

A reading from First John:

1Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God,
and everyone who loves the parent loves the child.
2By this we know that we love the children of God,
when we love God and obey his commandments.
3For the love of God is this,
that we obey his commandments.
And his commandments are not burdensome,
4for whatever is born of God conquers the world.
And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith.
5Who is it that conquers the world
but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

6This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ,
not with the water only but with the water and the blood.
And the Spirit is the one that testifies,
for the Spirit is the truth.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: John 15:9–17

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 15th chapter.

Jesus said:
9"As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you;
abide in my love.
10If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love,
just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.
11I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you,
and that your joy may be complete.

12"This is my commandment,
that you love one another as I have loved you.
13No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.
14You are my friends if you do what I command you.
15I do not call you servants any longer,
because the servant does not know what the master is doing;
but I have called you friends,
because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my
Father.
16You did not choose me but I chose you.
And I appointed you to go and bear fruit,
fruit that will last,
so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name.
17I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another."

The Gospel of the Lord.

The Ascension of Our Lord

MAY 8, 1997 JUNE 1, 2000 MAY 29, 2003

FIRST READING: Acts 1:1–11

A reading from Acts:

Luke writes:
[1]In the first book, Theophilus,
I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning
[2]until the day when he was taken up to heaven,
after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit
to the apostles whom he had chosen.
[3]After his suffering he presented himself alive to them
by many convincing proofs,
appearing to them during forty days
and speaking about the kingdom of God.
[4]While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem,
but to wait there for the promise of the Father.
"This," he said, "is what you have heard from me;
[5]for John baptized with water,
but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

[6]So when they had come together, they asked him,
"Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?"
[7]He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods
that the Father has set by his own authority.
[8]But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you;
and you will be my witnesses
in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."
[9]When he had said this, as they were watching,
he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

[10]While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven,
suddenly two men in white robes stood by them.
[11]They said, "Men of Galilee,
why do you stand looking up toward heaven?
This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven,
will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 47 or Psalm 93

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:15–23

A reading from Ephesians:

15 I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus
and your love toward all the saints,
and for this reason 16 I do not cease to give thanks for you
as I remember you in my prayers.
17 I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory,
may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him,
18 so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened,
you may know what is the hope to which he has called you,
what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints,
19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe,
according to the working of his great power.

20 God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead
and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places,
21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion,
and above every name that is named,
not only in this age but also in the age to come.
22 And he has put all things under his feet
and has made him the head over all things for the church,
23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 24:44–53

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 24th chapter.

44Jesus said to the eleven and those with them,
"These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—
that everything written about me
in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled."
45Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures,
46and he said to them,
"Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer
and to rise from the dead on the third day,
47and that repentance and forgiveness of sins
is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations,
beginning from Jerusalem.
48You are witnesses of these things.
49And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised;
so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

50Then he led them out as far as Bethany,
and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them.
51While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them
and was carried up into heaven.
52And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy;
53and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Seventh Sunday of Easter

MAY 11, 1997 JUNE 4, 2000 JUNE 1, 2003

FIRST READING: Acts 1:15–17, 21–26

A reading from Acts:

15In those days Peter stood up among the believers
(together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons)
and said, 16"Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled,
which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas,
who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus—
17for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.

21"So one of the men who have accompanied us
during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us,
22beginning from the baptism of John
until the day when he was taken up from us—
one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection."
23So they proposed two,
Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus,
and Matthias.
24Then they prayed and said,
"Lord, you know everyone's heart.
Show us which one of these two you have chosen
25to take the place in this ministry and apostleship
from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place."
26And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias;
and he was added to the eleven apostles.

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 1

SECOND READING: 1 John 5:9–13

A reading from First John:

9 If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater;
for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son.
10 Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts.
Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar
by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son.
11 And this is the testimony:
God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.
12 Whoever has the Son has life;
whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

13 I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God,
so that you may know that you have eternal life.

The word of the Lord.

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 17th chapter.

Jesus prayed:
6"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world.
They were yours, and you gave them to me,
and they have kept your word.
7Now they know that everything you have given me is from you;
8for the words that you gave to me I have given to them,
and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you;
and they have believed that you sent me.
9I am asking on their behalf;
I am not asking on behalf of the world,
but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours.
10All mine are yours, and yours are mine;
and I have been glorified in them.
11And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world,
and I am coming to you.

"Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me,
so that they may be one, as we are one.
12While I was with them,
I protected them in your name that you have given me.
I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost,
so that the scripture might be fulfilled.
13But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world
so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves.
14I have given them your word,
and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world,
just as I do not belong to the world.
15I am not asking you to take them out of the world,
but I ask you to protect them from the evil one.
16They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world.
17Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.
18As you have sent me into the world,
so I have sent them into the world.
19And for their sakes I sanctify myself,
so that they also may be sanctified in truth."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Vigil of Pentecost

MAY 17, 1997 JUNE 10, 2000 JUNE 7, 2003

FIRST READING: Exodus 19:1–9

Or Acts 2:1–11, following

A reading from Exodus:

[1]On the third new moon after the Israelites had gone out of the land of Egypt,
on that very day, they came into the wilderness of Sinai.
[2]They had journeyed from Rephidim,
entered the wilderness of Sinai, and camped in the wilderness;
Israel camped there in front of the mountain.

[3]Then Moses went up to God;
the Lord called to him from the mountain, saying,
"Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the Israelites:
[4]You have seen what I did to the Egyptians,
and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself.
[5]Now therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant,
you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples.
Indeed, the whole earth is mine,
[6]but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation.
These are the words that you shall speak to the Israelites."

[7]So Moses came, summoned the elders of the people,
and set before them all these words that the Lord had commanded him.
[8]The people all answered as one:
"Everything that the Lord has spoken we will do."
Moses reported the words of the people to the Lord.
[9]Then the Lord said to Moses,
"I am going to come to you in a dense cloud,
in order that the people may hear when I speak with you
and so trust you ever after."

The word of the Lord.

OR: Acts 2:1–11

A reading from Acts:

[1]When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.
[2]And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind,
and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.
[3]Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them,
and a tongue rested on each of them.
[4]All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit
and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

[5]Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven
living in Jerusalem.
[6]And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered,
because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each.
[7]Amazed and astonished, they asked,
"Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?
[8]And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language?
[9]Parthians, Medes, Elamites,
and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,
[10]Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene,
and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, [11]Cretans and Arabs—
in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power."

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 33:12–22 or Psalm 130

SECOND READING: Romans 8:14–17, 22–27

A reading from Romans:

14All who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.
15For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear,
but you have received a spirit of adoption.
When we cry, "Abba! Father!"
16it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit
that we are children of God,
17and if children, then heirs,
heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—
if, in fact, we suffer with him
so that we may also be glorified with him.

22We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now;
23and not only the creation,
but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit,
groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.
24For in hope we were saved.
Now hope that is seen is not hope.
For who hopes for what is seen?
25But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

26Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness;
for we do not know how to pray as we ought,
but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.
27And God, who searches the heart,
knows what is the mind of the Spirit,
because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: John 7:37–39

The Holy Gospel according to John, the seventh chapter.

37On the last day of the festival of Booths, the great day,
while Jesus was standing in the temple, he cried out,
"Let anyone who is thirsty come to me,
38and let the one who believes in me drink.
As the scripture has said,
'Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water.' "
39Now he said this about the Spirit,
which believers in him were to receive;
for as yet there was no Spirit,
because Jesus was not yet glorified.

The Gospel of the Lord.

The Day of Pentecost

MAY 18, 1997 JUNE 11, 2000 JUNE 8, 2003

FIRST READING: Acts 2:1–21

Or Ezekiel 37:1–14, following

A reading from Acts:

[1]When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.
[2]And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent
wind,
and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.
[3]Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them,
and a tongue rested on each of them.
[4]All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit
and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

[5]Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living
in Jerusalem.
[6]And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered,
because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each.
[7]Amazed and astonished, they asked,
"Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?
[8]And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language?
[9]Parthians, Medes, Elamites,
and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,
[10]Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene,
and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, [11]Cretans and Arabs—
in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power."

[12]All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another,
"What does this mean?"
[13]But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

[14]But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them,
"Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem,
let this be known to you, and listen to what I say.
[15]Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose,
for it is only nine o'clock in the morning.
[16]No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:
[17]'In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,

and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.
[18]Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;
and they shall prophesy.
[19]And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.
[20]The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.
[21]Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.' "

The word of the Lord.

OR: Ezekiel 37:1–14

A reading from Ezekiel:

[1]The hand of the LORD came upon me,
and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD
and set me down in the middle of a valley;
it was full of bones.
[2]He led me all around them;
there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry.
[3]He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?"
I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know."

[4]Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them:
O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.
[5]Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones:
I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live.
[6]I will lay sinews on you,
and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin,
and put breath in you, and you shall live;
and you shall know that I am the LORD."

[7]So I prophesied as I had been commanded;
and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling,
and the bones came together, bone to its bone.
[8]I looked, and there were sinews on them,
and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them;
but there was no breath in them.
[9]Then he said to me,
"Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath:
Thus says the Lord GOD:
Come from the four winds, O breath,

and breathe upon these slain, that they may live."
[10]I prophesied as he commanded me,
and the breath came into them,
and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

[11]Then he said to me,
"Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel.
They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost;
we are cut off completely.'
[12]Therefore prophesy, and say to them,
Thus says the Lord GOD:
I am going to open your graves,
and bring you up from your graves, O my people;
and I will bring you back to the land of Israel.
[13]And you shall know that I am the LORD,
when I open your graves,
and bring you up from your graves, O my people.
[14]I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live,
and I will place you on your own soil;
then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act,
says the LORD."

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: PSALM 104:24–34, 35b *Psalm 104:25–35, 37* LBW/BCP

SECOND READING: ROMANS 8:22–27
Or Acts 2:1–21, following

A reading from Romans:

[22]We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now;
[23]and not only the creation,
but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit,
groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.
[24]For in hope we were saved.
Now hope that is seen is not hope.
For who hopes for what is seen?
[25]But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

[26]Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness;
for we do not know how to pray as we ought,
but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.
[27]And God, who searches the heart,
knows what is the mind of the Spirit,
because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

The word of the Lord.

OR: Acts 2:1–21

A reading from Acts:

[1]When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.
[2]And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent
wind,
and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.
[3]Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them,
and a tongue rested on each of them.
[4]All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit
and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

[5]Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living
in Jerusalem.
[6]And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered,
because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each.
[7]Amazed and astonished, they asked,
"Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?
[8]And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language?
[9]Parthians, Medes, Elamites,
and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,
[10]Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene,
and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, [11]Cretans and Arabs—
in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power."

[12]All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another,
"What does this mean?"
[13]But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

[14]But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them,
"Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem,
let this be known to you, and listen to what I say.
[15]Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose,
for it is only nine o'clock in the morning.
[16]No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:
[17]'In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.
[18]Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;
and they shall prophesy.
[19]And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.
[20]The sun shall be turned to darkness

and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.
[21]Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.' "

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: JOHN 15:26–27; 16:4b–15

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 15th and 16th chapters.

Jesus said,
[26]"When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father,
the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father,
he will testify on my behalf.
[27]You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning.

[16:4b]"I did not say these things to you from the beginning,
because I was with you.
[5]But now I am going to him who sent me;
yet none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?'
[6]But because I have said these things to you,
sorrow has filled your hearts.
[7]Nevertheless I tell you the truth:
it is to your advantage that I go away,
for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you;
but if I go, I will send him to you.
[8]And when he comes,
he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment:
[9]about sin, because they do not believe in me;
[10]about righteousness, because I am going to the Father
and you will see me no longer;
[11]about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

[12]"I still have many things to say to you,
but you cannot bear them now.
[13]When the Spirit of truth comes,
he will guide you into all the truth;
for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears,
and he will declare to you the things that are to come.
[14]He will glorify me,
because he will take what is mine and declare it to you.
[15]All that the Father has is mine.
For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Season after Pentecost

The Holy Trinity

First Sunday after Pentecost

MAY 25, 1997 JUNE 18, 2000 JUNE 15, 2003

FIRST READING: Isaiah 6:1–8

A reading from Isaiah:

1In the year that King Uzziah died,
I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty;
and the hem of his robe filled the temple.
2Seraphs were in attendance above him;
each had six wings:
with two they covered their faces,
and with two they covered their feet,
and with two they flew.
3And one called to another and said:
"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory."
4The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called,
and the house filled with smoke.
5And I said: "Woe is me!
I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips,
and I live among a people of unclean lips;
yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!"

6Then one of the seraphs flew to me,
holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs.
7The seraph touched my mouth with it and said:
"Now that this has touched your lips,
your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out."
8Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying,
"Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?"
And I said, "Here am I; send me!"

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 29

SECOND READING: ROMANS 8:12–17

A reading from Romans:

12Brothers and sisters,
we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—
13for if you live according to the flesh, you will die;
but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body,
you will live.
14For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.
15For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear,
but you have received a spirit of adoption.
When we cry, "Abba! Father!"
16it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children
of God,
17and if children, then heirs,
heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—
if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: JOHN 3:1–17

The Holy Gospel according to John, the third chapter.

1Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews.
2He came to Jesus by night and said to him,
"Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God,
for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God."
3Jesus answered him,
"Very truly, I tell you,
no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above."

4Nicodemus said to him,
"How can anyone be born after having grown old?
Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?"
5Jesus answered,
"Very truly, I tell you,
no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit.
6What is born of the flesh is flesh,
and what is born of the Spirit is spirit.
7Do not be astonished that I said to you,
'You must be born from above.'
8The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it,
but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes.
So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

9Nicodemus said to him,

"How can these things be?"
[10]Jesus answered him,
"Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?
[11]Very truly, I tell you,
we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen;
yet you do not receive our testimony.
[12]If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe,
how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things?

[13]"No one has ascended into heaven
except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.
[14]And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness,
so must the Son of Man be lifted up,
[15]that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

[16]"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish
but may have eternal life.
[17]Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world,
but in order that the world might be saved through him."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between May 24 and 28 inclusive

(if after Trinity Sunday)

PROPER 3

FIRST READING: Hosea 2:14–20

A reading from Hosea:

14 I will now allure her, says the Lord,
and bring her into the wilderness,
and speak tenderly to her.
15 From there I will give her her vineyards,
and make the Valley of Achor a door of hope.
There she shall respond as in the days of her youth,
as at the time when she came out of the land of Egypt.

16 On that day, says the Lord, you will call me, "My husband,"
and no longer will you call me, "My Baal."
17 For I will remove the names of the Baals from her mouth,
and they shall be mentioned by name no more.
18 I will make for you a covenant on that day with the wild animals,
the birds of the air, and the creeping things of the ground;
and I will abolish the bow, the sword, and war from the land;
and I will make you lie down in safety.
19 And I will take you for my wife forever;
I will take you for my wife in righteousness and in justice,
in steadfast love, and in mercy.
20 I will take you for my wife in faithfulness;
and you shall know the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 103:1–13, 22

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 3:1–6

A reading from Second Corinthians:

[1]Are we beginning to commend ourselves again?
Surely we do not need, as some do,
letters of recommendation to you or from you, do we?
[2]You yourselves are our letter,
written on our hearts, to be known and read by all;
[3]and you show that you are a letter of Christ,
prepared by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God,
not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.
[4]Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God.
[5]Not that we are competent of ourselves to claim anything as coming from us;
our competence is from God,
[6]who has made us competent to be ministers of a new covenant,
not of letter but of spirit;
for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: Mark 2:13–22

The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the second chapter.

13Jesus went out again beside the sea;
the whole crowd gathered around him, and he taught them.
14As he was walking along,
he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth,
and he said to him, "Follow me."
And he got up and followed him.

15And as he sat at dinner in Levi's house,
many tax collectors and sinners were also sitting with Jesus and his
disciples—
for there were many who followed him.
16When the scribes of the Pharisees saw that he was eating with sinners and
tax collectors,
they said to his disciples,
"Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?"
17When Jesus heard this, he said to them,
"Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick;
I have come to call not the righteous but sinners."

18Now John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting;
and people came and said to him,
"Why do John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast,
but your disciples do not fast?"
19Jesus said to them,
"The wedding guests cannot fast while the bridegroom is with them, can they?
As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast.
20The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them,
and then they will fast on that day.

21"No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old cloak;
otherwise, the patch pulls away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear
is made.
22And no one puts new wine into old wineskins;
otherwise, the wine will burst the skins,
and the wine is lost, and so are the skins;
but one puts new wine into fresh wineskins."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between May 29 and June 4 inclusive

(if after Trinity Sunday)

PROPER 4

JUNE 1, 1997

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 5:12–15

A reading from Deuteronomy:

12Observe the sabbath day and keep it holy,
as the LORD your God commanded you.
13Six days you shall labor and do all your work.
14But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God;
you shall not do any work—
you, or your son or your daughter, or your male or female slave,
or your ox or your donkey, or any of your livestock,
or the resident alien in your towns,
so that your male and female slave may rest as well as you.
15Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt,
and the LORD your God brought you out from there
with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm;
therefore the LORD your God commanded you to keep the sabbath day.

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 81:1–10

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 4:5–12

A reading from Second Corinthians:

5We do not proclaim ourselves;
we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord
and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake.
6For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness,"
who has shone in our hearts
to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God
in the face of Jesus Christ.

7But we have this treasure in clay jars,
so that it may be made clear
that this extraordinary power belongs to God
and does not come from us.
8We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed;
perplexed, but not driven to despair;
9persecuted, but not forsaken;
struck down, but not destroyed;
10always carrying in the body the death of Jesus,
so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies.
11For while we live,
we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake,
so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh.
12So death is at work in us, but life in you.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: Mark 2:23—3:6

The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the second and third chapters.

23One sabbath Jesus was going through the grainfields;
and as they made their way his disciples began to pluck heads of grain.
24The Pharisees said to him,
"Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the sabbath?"
25And he said to them,
"Have you never read what David did
when he and his companions were hungry and in need of food?
26He entered the house of God, when Abiathar was high priest,
and ate the bread of the Presence,
which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat,
and he gave some to his companions."

27Then he said to them,
"The sabbath was made for humankind,
and not humankind for the sabbath;
28so the Son of Man is lord even of the sabbath."

3:1Again he entered the synagogue,
and a man was there who had a withered hand.
2They watched him to see whether he would cure him on the sabbath,
so that they might accuse him.
3And he said to the man who had the withered hand,
"Come forward."
4Then he said to them,
"Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the sabbath,
to save life or to kill?"
But they were silent.
5He looked around at them with anger;
he was grieved at their hardness of heart and said to the man,
"Stretch out your hand."
He stretched it out, and his hand was restored.
6The Pharisees went out
and immediately conspired with the Herodians against him,
how to destroy him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between June 5 and 11 inclusive

(if after Trinity Sunday)

PROPER 5

JUNE 8, 1997

FIRST READING: Genesis 3:8–15

A reading from Genesis:

8Adam and Eve heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden
at the time of the evening breeze,
and the man and his wife hid themselves
from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.
9But the LORD God called to the man,
and said to him, "Where are you?"
10He said,
"I heard the sound of you in the garden,
and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself."
11He said, "Who told you that you were naked?
Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?"
12The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me,
she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate."
13Then the LORD God said to the woman,
"What is this that you have done?"
The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate."

14The LORD God said to the serpent,
"Because you have done this,
cursed are you among all animals
and among all wild creatures;
upon your belly you shall go,
and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.
15I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and hers;
he will strike your head,
and you will strike his heel."

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 130

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 4:13—5:1

A reading from Second Corinthians:

13 Just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture—
"I believed, and so I spoke"—
we also believe, and so we speak,
14 because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus
will raise us also with Jesus,
and will bring us with you into his presence.
15 Yes, everything is for your sake,
so that grace, as it extends to more and more people,
may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

16 So we do not lose heart.
Even though our outer nature is wasting away,
our inner nature is being renewed day by day.
17 For this slight momentary affliction
is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure,
18 because we look not at what can be seen
but at what cannot be seen;
for what can be seen is temporary,
but what cannot be seen is eternal.
5:1 For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed,
we have a building from God,
a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: Mark 3:20–35

The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the third chapter.

Jesus went home;
20and the crowd came together again,
so that Jesus and the disciples could not even eat.
21When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him,
for people were saying, "He has gone out of his mind."
22And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said,
"He has Beelzebul,
and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons."

23And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables,
"How can Satan cast out Satan?
24If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand.
25And if a house is divided against itself,
that house will not be able to stand.
26And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided,
he cannot stand, but his end has come.
27But no one can enter a strong man's house
and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man;
then indeed the house can be plundered.
28Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins
and whatever blasphemies they utter;
29but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness,
but is guilty of an eternal sin"—
30for they had said, "He has an unclean spirit."

31Then his mother and his brothers came;
and standing outside, they sent to him and called him.
32A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him,
"Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you."
33And he replied,
"Who are my mother and my brothers?"
34And looking at those who sat around him, he said,
"Here are my mother and my brothers!
35Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between June 12 and 18 inclusive
(if after Trinity Sunday)

PROPER 6

JUNE 15, 1997

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 17:22–24

A reading from Ezekiel:

22Thus says the Lord God:
I myself will take a sprig
from the lofty top of a cedar;
I will set it out.
I will break off a tender one
from the topmost of its young twigs;
I myself will plant it
on a high and lofty mountain.
23On the mountain height of Israel
I will plant it,
in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit,
and become a noble cedar.
Under it every kind of bird will live;
in the shade of its branches will nest
winged creatures of every kind.
24All the trees of the field shall know
that I am the Lord.
I bring low the high tree,
I make high the low tree;
I dry up the green tree
and make the dry tree flourish.
I the Lord have spoken;
I will accomplish it.

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 92:1–4, 12–15 *Psalm 92:1–4, 11–14* LBW/BCP

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:6–10 [11–13] 14–17

A reading from Second Corinthians:

6So we are always confident;
even though we know that while we are at home in the body
we are away from the Lord—
7for we walk by faith, not by sight.
8Yes, we do have confidence,
and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord.
9So whether we are at home or away,
we make it our aim to please him.
10For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ,
so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body,
whether good or evil.

[11Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord,
we try to persuade others;
but we ourselves are well known to God,
and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences.
12We are not commending ourselves to you again,
but giving you an opportunity to boast about us,
so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance
and not in the heart.
13For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God;
if we are in our right mind, it is for you.]

14For the love of Christ urges us on,
because we are convinced that one has died for all;
therefore all have died.
15And he died for all,
so that those who live might live no longer for themselves,
but for him who died and was raised for them.

16From now on, therefore,
we regard no one from a human point of view;
even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view,
we know him no longer in that way.
17So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:
everything old has passed away;
see, everything has become new!

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: Mark 4:26–34

The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the fourth chapter.

26Jesus said,
"The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground,
27and would sleep and rise night and day,
and the seed would sprout and grow,
he does not know how.
28The earth produces of itself, first the stalk,
then the head, then the full grain in the head.
29But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle,
because the harvest has come."

30He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God,
or what parable will we use for it?
31It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground,
is the smallest of all the seeds on earth;
32yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs,
and puts forth large branches,
so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

33With many such parables he spoke the word to them,
as they were able to hear it;
34he did not speak to them except in parables,
but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between June 19 and 25 inclusive

(if after Trinity Sunday)

PROPER 7

JUNE 22, 1997 *JUNE 25, 2000* *JUNE 22, 2003*

FIRST READING: Job 38:1–11

A reading from Job:

[1]The Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind:
[2]"Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?
[3]Gird up your loins like a man,
I will question you, and you shall declare to me.

[4]"Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?
Tell me, if you have understanding.
[5]Who determined its measurements—surely you know!
Or who stretched the line upon it?
[6]On what were its bases sunk,
or who laid its cornerstone
[7]when the morning stars sang together
and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy?

[8]"Or who shut in the sea with doors
when it burst out from the womb?—
[9]when I made the clouds its garment,
and thick darkness its swaddling band,
[10]and prescribed bounds for it,
and set bars and doors,
[11]and said, 'Thus far shall you come, and no farther,
and here shall your proud waves be stopped'?"

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 107:1–3, 23–32

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 6:1–13

A reading from Second Corinthians:

[1]As we work together with him,
we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain.
[2]For he says,
"At an acceptable time I have listened to you,
and on a day of salvation I have helped you."
See, now is the acceptable time;
see, now is the day of salvation!
[3]We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way,
so that no fault may be found with our ministry,
[4]but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way:
through great endurance,
in afflictions, hardships, calamities, [5]beatings, imprisonments,
riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger;
[6]by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit,
genuine love, [7]truthful speech, and the power of God;
with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left;
[8]in honor and dishonor,
in ill repute and good repute.
We are treated as impostors, and yet are true;
[9]as unknown, and yet are well known;
as dying, and see—we are alive;
as punished, and yet not killed;
[10]as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing;
as poor, yet making many rich;
as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

[11]We have spoken frankly to you Corinthians;
our heart is wide open to you.
[12]There is no restriction in our affections, but only in yours.
[13]In return—I speak as to children—
open wide your hearts also.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: Mark 4:35–41

The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the fourth chapter.

35When evening had come, Jesus said to the disciples,
"Let us go across to the other side."
36And leaving the crowd behind,
they took him with them in the boat, just as he was.
Other boats were with him.

37A great windstorm arose,
and the waves beat into the boat,
so that the boat was already being swamped.
38But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion;
and they woke him up and said to him,
"Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?"
39He woke up and rebuked the wind,
and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!"
Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm.
40He said to them, "Why are you afraid?
Have you still no faith?"

41And they were filled with great awe and said to one another,
"Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

The Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between June 26 and July 2 inclusive

PROPER 8

JUNE 29, 1997 *JULY 2, 2000* *JUNE 29, 2003*

FIRST READING: Lamentations 3:22–33

Alternate Reading: Wisdom of Solomon 1:13–15; 2:23–24 (p. 406)

A reading from Lamentations:

22 The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
    his mercies never come to an end;
23 they are new every morning;
    great is your faithfulness.
24 "The Lord is my portion," says my soul,
    "therefore I will hope in him."

25 The Lord is good to those who wait for him,
    to the soul that seeks him.
26 It is good that one should wait quietly
    for the salvation of the Lord.
27 It is good for one to bear
    the yoke in youth,
28 to sit alone in silence
    when the Lord has imposed it,
29 to put one's mouth to the dust
    (there may yet be hope),
30 to give one's cheek to the smiter,
    and be filled with insults.

31 For the Lord will not
    reject forever.
32 Although he causes grief, he will have compassion
    according to the abundance of his steadfast love;
33 for he does not willingly afflict
    or grieve anyone.

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 30

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 8:7–15

A reading from Second Corinthians:

7Now as you excel in everything—
in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness,
and in our love for you—
so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking.

8I do not say this as a command,
but I am testing the genuineness of your love against the earnestness
of others.
9For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ,
that though he was rich,
yet for your sakes he became poor,
so that by his poverty you might become rich.
10And in this matter I am giving my advice:
it is appropriate for you who began last year not only to do something
but even to desire to do something—
11now finish doing it,
so that your eagerness may be matched by completing it according to your
means.
12For if the eagerness is there,
the gift is acceptable according to what one has—
not according to what one does not have.
13I do not mean that there should be relief for others and pressure on you,
but it is a question of a fair balance between 14your present abundance and
their need,
so that their abundance may be for your need,
in order that there may be a fair balance.
15As it is written,
"The one who had much did not have too much,
and the one who had little did not have too little."

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: Mark 5:21–43

The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the fifth chapter.

21When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side,
a great crowd gathered around him; and he was by the sea.
22Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came
and, when he saw him,
fell at his feet 23and begged him repeatedly,
"My little daughter is at the point of death.
Come and lay your hands on her,
so that she may be made well, and live."
24So he went with him.

And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him.
25Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages
for twelve years.
26She had endured much under many physicians,
and had spent all that she had;
and she was no better, but rather grew worse.
27She had heard about Jesus,
and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak,
28for she said, "If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well."
29Immediately her hemorrhage stopped;
and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease.
30Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him,
Jesus turned about in the crowd and said,
"Who touched my clothes?"
31And his disciples said to him,
"You see the crowd pressing in on you;
how can you say, 'Who touched me?' "
32He looked all around to see who had done it.
33But the woman, knowing what had happened to her,
came in fear and trembling, fell down before him,
and told him the whole truth.
34He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well;
go in peace, and be healed of your disease."

35While he was still speaking,
some people came from the leader's house to say,
"Your daughter is dead.
Why trouble the teacher any further?"
36But overhearing what they said,
Jesus said to the leader of the synagogue,
"Do not fear, only believe."
37He allowed no one to follow him
except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James.

38When they came to the house of the leader of the synagogue,
he saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly.
39When he had entered, he said to them,
"Why do you make a commotion and weep?
The child is not dead but sleeping."
40And they laughed at him.
Then he put them all outside,
and took the child's father and mother and those who were with him,
and went in where the child was.
41He took her by the hand and said to her,
"Talitha cum," which means, "Little girl, get up!"
42And immediately the girl got up and began to walk about
(she was twelve years of age).
At this they were overcome with amazement.
43He strictly ordered them that no one should know this,
and told them to give her something to eat.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between July 3 and 9 inclusive

PROPER 9

JULY 6, 1997 *JULY 9, 2000* *JULY 6, 2003*

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 2:1–5

A reading from Ezekiel:

1A voice said to me:
O mortal, stand up on your feet, and I will speak with you.
2And when he spoke to me,
a spirit entered into me and set me on my feet;
and I heard him speaking to me.
3He said to me,
Mortal, I am sending you to the people of Israel,
to a nation of rebels who have rebelled against me;
they and their ancestors have transgressed against me to this very day.
4The descendants are impudent and stubborn.
I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them,
"Thus says the Lord God."
5Whether they hear or refuse to hear
(for they are a rebellious house),
they shall know that there has been a prophet among them.

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 123

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 12:2–10

A reading from Second Corinthians:

[2]I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third
heaven—
whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows.
[3]And I know that such a person—
whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows—
[4]was caught up into Paradise and heard things that are not to be told,
that no mortal is permitted to repeat.
[5]On behalf of such a one I will boast,
but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses.
[6]But if I wish to boast, I will not be a fool,
for I will be speaking the truth.
But I refrain from it,
so that no one may think better of me than what is seen in me or heard
from me,
[7]even considering the exceptional character of the revelations.

Therefore, to keep me from being too elated,
a thorn was given me in the flesh,
a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated.
[8]Three times I appealed to the Lord about this,
that it would leave me,
[9]but he said to me,
"My grace is sufficient for you,
for power is made perfect in weakness."
So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses,
so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.
[10]Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships,
persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ;
for whenever I am weak,
then I am strong.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: Mark 6:1–13

The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the sixth chapter.

[1]Jesus came to his hometown,
and his disciples followed him.
[2]On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue,
and many who heard him were astounded.
They said, "Where did this man get all this?
What is this wisdom that has been given to him?
What deeds of power are being done by his hands!
[3]Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary
and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon,
and are not his sisters here with us?"
And they took offense at him.

[4]Then Jesus said to them,
"Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown,
and among their own kin, and in their own house."
[5]And he could do no deed of power there,
except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them.
[6]And he was amazed at their unbelief.

Then he went about among the villages teaching.
[7]He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two,
and gave them authority over the unclean spirits.
[8]He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff;
no bread, no bag, no money in their belts;
[9]but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics.
[10]He said to them,
"Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place.
[11]If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you,
as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them."
[12]So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent.
[13]They cast out many demons,
and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between July 10 and 16 inclusive

PROPER 10

JULY 13, 1997 *JULY 16, 2000* *JULY 13, 2003*

FIRST READING: Amos 7:7–15

A reading from Amos:

7This is what the Lord God showed me:
the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb line,
with a plumb line in his hand.
8And the Lord said to me,
"Amos, what do you see?"
And I said, "A plumb line."
Then the Lord said,
"See, I am setting a plumb line
in the midst of my people Israel;
I will never again pass them by;
9the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate,
and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste,
and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword."

10Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel,
sent to King Jeroboam of Israel, saying,
"Amos has conspired against you in the very center of the house of Israel;
the land is not able to bear all his words.
11For thus Amos has said,
'Jeroboam shall die by the sword,
and Israel must go into exile
away from his land.' "
12And Amaziah said to Amos,
"O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah,
earn your bread there, and prophesy there;
13but never again prophesy at Bethel,
for it is the king's sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom."

14Then Amos answered Amaziah,
"I am no prophet, nor a prophet's son;
but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees,

15and the LORD took me from following the flock,
and the LORD said to me,
'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.' "

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: PSALM 85:8–13

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:3–14

A reading from Ephesians:

[3]Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has blessed us in Christ
with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,
[4]just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world
to be holy and blameless before him in love.
[5]He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ,
according to the good pleasure of his will,
[6]to the praise of his glorious grace
that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

[7]In him we have redemption through his blood,
the forgiveness of our trespasses,
according to the riches of his grace [8]that he lavished on us.

With all wisdom and insight
[9]he has made known to us the mystery of his will,
according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ,
[10]as a plan for the fullness of time,
to gather up all things in him,
things in heaven and things on earth.
[11]In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance,
having been destined according to the purpose of him
who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will,
[12]so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ,
might live for the praise of his glory.
[13]In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth,
the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him,
were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit;
[14]this is the pledge of our inheritance
toward redemption as God's own people,
to the praise of his glory.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: Mark 6:14–29

The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the sixth chapter.

[14]King Herod heard of the disciples' preaching,
for Jesus' name had become known.
Some were saying,
"John the baptizer has been raised from the dead;
and for this reason these powers are at work in him."

15But others said, "It is Elijah."
And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old."
16But when Herod heard of it, he said,
"John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."

17For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John,
bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias,
his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her.
18For John had been telling Herod,
"It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife."
19And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him.
But she could not, 20for Herod feared John,
knowing that he was a righteous and holy man,
and he protected him.
When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed;
and yet he liked to listen to him.
21But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday
gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee.
22When his daughter Herodias came in and danced,
she pleased Herod and his guests;
and the king said to the girl,
"Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it."
23And he solemnly swore to her,
"Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom."
24She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?"
She replied, "The head of John the baptizer."
25Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested,
"I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter."

26The king was deeply grieved;
yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests,
he did not want to refuse her.
27Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's
head.
He went and beheaded him in the prison,
28brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl.
Then the girl gave it to her mother.
29When his disciples heard about it,
they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between July 17 and 23 inclusive

PROPER 11

JULY 20, 1997 *JULY 23, 2000* *JULY 20, 2003*

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 23:1–6

A reading from Jeremiah:

[1]Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture!
says the Lord.
[2]Therefore thus says the Lord, the God of Israel,
concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people:
It is you who have scattered my flock,
and have driven them away,
and you have not attended to them.
So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the Lord.

[3]Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock
out of all the lands where I have driven them,
and I will bring them back to their fold,
and they shall be fruitful and multiply.
[4]I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them,
and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed,
nor shall any be missing, says the Lord.

[5]The days are surely coming, says the Lord,
when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch,
and he shall reign as king and deal wisely,
and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.
[6]In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety.
And this is the name by which he will be called:
"The Lord is our righteousness."

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 23

SECOND READING: Ephesians 2:11–22

A reading from Ephesians:

11Remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth,
called "the uncircumcision" by those who are called "the circumcision"—
a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands—
12remember that you were at that time without Christ,
being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel,
and strangers to the covenants of promise,
having no hope and without God in the world.

13But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off
have been brought near by the blood of Christ.
14For he is our peace;
in his flesh he has made both groups into one
and has broken down the dividing wall,
that is, the hostility between us.
15He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances,
that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two,
thus making peace,
16and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross,
thus putting to death that hostility through it.
17So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off
and peace to those who were near;
18for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father.

19So then you are no longer strangers and aliens,
but you are citizens with the saints
and also members of the household of God,
20built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets,
with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone.
21In him the whole structure is joined together
and grows into a holy temple in the Lord;
22in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: Mark 6:30–34, 53–56

The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the sixth chapter.

30The apostles gathered around Jesus,
and told him all that they had done and taught.
31He said to them,
"Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while."
For many were coming and going,
and they had no leisure even to eat.
32And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves.
33Now many saw them going and recognized them,
and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them.

34As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd;
and he had compassion for them,
because they were like sheep without a shepherd;
and he began to teach them many things.

53When they had crossed over,
they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat.
54When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him,
55and rushed about that whole region
and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was.
56And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms,
they laid the sick in the marketplaces,
and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak;
and all who touched it were healed.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between July 24 and 30 inclusive

PROPER 12

JULY 27, 1997 *JULY 30, 2000* *JULY 27, 2003*

FIRST READING: 2 Kings 4:42–44

A reading from Second Kings:

42A man came from Baal-shalishah,
bringing food from the first fruits to Elisha, the man of God:
twenty loaves of barley and fresh ears of grain in his sack.
Elisha said, "Give it to the people and let them eat."
43But his servant said,
"How can I set this before a hundred people?"
So he repeated,
"Give it to the people and let them eat, for thus says the Lord,
'They shall eat and have some left.' "
44He set it before them,
they ate, and had some left,
according to the word of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 145:10–18 *Psalm 145:10–19* LBW/BCP

SECOND READING: Ephesians 3:14–21

A reading from Ephesians:

14For this reason I bow my knees before the Father,
15from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name.
16I pray that, according to the riches of his glory,
he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being
with power through his Spirit,
17and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith,
as you are being rooted and grounded in love.
18I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints,
what is the breadth and length and height and depth,
19and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge,
so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

20Now to him who by the power at work within us
is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine,
21to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus
to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: John 6:1–21

The Holy Gospel according to John, the sixth chapter.

1Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee,
also called the Sea of Tiberias.
2A large crowd kept following him,
because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick.
3Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples.
4Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near.
5When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him,
Jesus said to Philip,
"Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?"
6He said this to test him,
for he himself knew what he was going to do.
7Philip answered him,
"Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get
a little."
8One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him,
9"There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish.
But what are they among so many people?"

10Jesus said, "Make the people sit down."
Now there was a great deal of grass in the place;
so they sat down, about five thousand in all.

[11]Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks,
he distributed them to those who were seated;
so also the fish, as much as they wanted.
[12]When they were satisfied, he told his disciples,
"Gather up the fragments left over,
so that nothing may be lost."
[13]So they gathered them up,
and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten,
they filled twelve baskets.
[14]When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say,
"This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world."

[15]When Jesus realized that they were about to come
and take him by force to make him king,
he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

[16]When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea,
[17]got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum.
It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them.
[18]The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing.
[19]When they had rowed about three or four miles,
they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat,
and they were terrified.
[20]But he said to them,
"It is I; do not be afraid."
[21]Then they wanted to take him into the boat,
and immediately the boat reached the land toward which they were going.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between July 31 and August 6 inclusive

PROPER 13

AUGUST 3, 1997 *AUGUST 6, 2000* *AUGUST 3, 2003*

FIRST READING: Exodus 16:2–4, 9–15

A reading from Exodus:

2The whole congregation of the Israelites
complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness.
3The Israelites said to them,
"If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt,
when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread;
for you have brought us out into this wilderness
to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

4Then the LORD said to Moses,
"I am going to rain bread from heaven for you,
and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day.
In that way I will test them,
whether they will follow my instruction or not."

9Then Moses said to Aaron,
"Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites,
'Draw near to the LORD, for he has heard your complaining.' "
10And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites,
they looked toward the wilderness,
and the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud.
11The LORD spoke to Moses and said,
12"I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them,
'At twilight you shall eat meat,
and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread;
then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.' "

13In the evening quails came up and covered the camp;
and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp.
14When the layer of dew lifted,
there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance,
as fine as frost on the ground.

15When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another,
"What is it?" For they did not know what it was.
Moses said to them,
"It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat."

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: PSALM 78:23–29

SECOND READING: Ephesians 4:1–16

A reading from Ephesians:

[1]I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord,
beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called,
[2]with all humility and gentleness,
with patience, bearing with one another in love,
[3]making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
[4]There is one body and one Spirit,
just as you were called to the one hope of your calling,
[5]one Lord, one faith, one baptism,
[6]one God and Father of all,
who is above all and through all and in all.

[7]But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift.
[8]Therefore it is said,
"When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive;
he gave gifts to his people."
[9](When it says, "He ascended," what does it mean
but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth?
[10]He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens,
so that he might fill all things.)
[11]The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets,
some evangelists, some pastors and teachers,
[12]to equip the saints for the work of ministry,
for building up the body of Christ,
[13]until all of us come to the unity of the faith
and of the knowledge of the Son of God,
to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.

[14]We must no longer be children,
tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine,
by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming.
[15]But speaking the truth in love,
we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,
[16]from whom the whole body,
joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped,
as each part is working properly,
promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: John 6:24–35

The Holy Gospel according to John, the sixth chapter.

24When the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were beside the sea,
they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus.
25When they found him on the other side of the sea,
they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?"
26Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you,
you are looking for me, not because you saw signs,
but because you ate your fill of the loaves.
27Do not work for the food that perishes,
but for the food that endures for eternal life,
which the Son of Man will give you.
For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal."

28Then they said to him,
"What must we do to perform the works of God?"
29Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God,
that you believe in him whom he has sent."
30So they said to him,
"What sign are you going to give us then,
so that we may see it and believe you?
What work are you performing?
31Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness;
as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.' "
32Then Jesus said to them,
"Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven,
but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven.
33For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven
and gives life to the world."
34They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always."

35Jesus said to them,
"I am the bread of life.
Whoever comes to me will never be hungry,
and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between August 7 and 13 inclusive

PROPER 14

AUGUST 10, 1997 *AUGUST 13, 2000* *AUGUST 10, 2003*

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 19:4–8

A reading from First Kings:

4Elijah went a day's journey into the wilderness,
and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree.
He asked that he might die:
"It is enough;
now, O Lord, take away my life,
for I am no better than my ancestors."

5Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep.
Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him,
"Get up and eat."
6He looked,
and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water.
He ate and drank, and lay down again.

7The angel of the Lord came a second time,
touched him, and said, "Get up and eat,
otherwise the journey will be too much for you."
8He got up, and ate and drank;
then he went in the strength of that food
forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God.

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 34:1–8

SECOND READING: Ephesians 4:25—5:2

A reading from Ephesians:

25So then, putting away falsehood,
let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors,
for we are members of one another.
26Be angry but do not sin;
do not let the sun go down on your anger,
27and do not make room for the devil.
28Thieves must give up stealing;
rather let them labor and work honestly with their own hands,
so as to have something to share with the needy.
29Let no evil talk come out of your mouths,
but only what is useful for building up, as there is need,
so that your words may give grace to those who hear.
30And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God,
with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption.
31Put away from you all bitterness and wrath
and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice,
32and be kind to one another,
tenderhearted, forgiving one another,
as God in Christ has forgiven you.

5:1Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children,
2and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us,
a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: John 6:35, 41–51

The Holy Gospel according to John, the sixth chapter.

35 Jesus said to them,
"I am the bread of life.
Whoever comes to me will never be hungry,
and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

41 Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said,
"I am the bread that came down from heaven."
42 They were saying,
"Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know?
How can he now say, 'I have come down from heaven'?"
43 Jesus answered them,
"Do not complain among yourselves.
44 No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me;
and I will raise that person up on the last day.
45 It is written in the prophets,
'And they shall all be taught by God.'
Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me.
46 Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God;
he has seen the Father.

47 "Very truly, I tell you,
whoever believes has eternal life.
48 I am the bread of life.
49 Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died.
50 This is the bread that comes down from heaven,
so that one may eat of it and not die.
51 I am the living bread that came down from heaven.
Whoever eats of this bread will live forever;
and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between August 14 and 20 inclusive

PROPER 15

AUGUST 17, 1997 *AUGUST 20, 2000* *AUGUST 17, 2003*

FIRST READING: Proverbs 9:1–6

A reading from Proverbs:

1Wisdom has built her house,
she has hewn her seven pillars.
2She has slaughtered her animals, she has mixed her wine,
she has also set her table.
3She has sent out her servant girls, she calls
from the highest places in the town,
4"You that are simple, turn in here!"
To those without sense she says,
5"Come, eat of my bread
and drink of the wine I have mixed.
6Lay aside immaturity, and live,
and walk in the way of insight."

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 34:9–14

SECOND READING: Ephesians 5:15–20

A reading from Ephesians:

15 Be careful then how you live,
not as unwise people but as wise,
16 making the most of the time, because the days are evil.
17 So do not be foolish,
but understand what the will of the Lord is.
18 Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery;
but be filled with the Spirit,
19 as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves,
singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts,
20 giving thanks to God the Father
at all times and for everything
in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: JOHN 6:51–58

The Holy Gospel according to John, the sixth chapter.

Jesus said,
51"I am the living bread that came down from heaven.
Whoever eats of this bread will live forever;
and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

52The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying,
"How can this man give us his flesh to eat?"
53So Jesus said to them,
"Very truly, I tell you,
unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood,
you have no life in you.
54Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life,
and I will raise them up on the last day;
55for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink.
56Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me,
and I in them.
57Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father,
so whoever eats me will live because of me.
58This is the bread that came down from heaven,
not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died.
But the one who eats this bread will live forever."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between August 21 and 27 inclusive

PROPER 16

AUGUST 24, 1997 *AUGUST 27, 2000* *AUGUST 24, 2003*

FIRST READING: Joshua 24:1–2a, 14–18

A reading from Joshua:

[1]Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem,
and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel;
and they presented themselves before God.
[2]And Joshua said to all the people,
[14]"Now therefore revere the Lord,
and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness;
put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt,
and serve the Lord.
[15]Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord,
choose this day whom you will serve,
whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River
or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living;
but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."

[16]Then the people answered,
"Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods;
[17]for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt,
out of the house of slavery,
and who did those great signs in our sight.
He protected us along all the way that we went,
and among all the peoples through whom we passed;
[18]and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples,
the Amorites who lived in the land.
Therefore we also will serve the Lord,
for he is our God."

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 34:15–22

SECOND READING: Ephesians 6:10–20

A reading from Ephesians:

10Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power.
11Put on the whole armor of God,
so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.
12For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh,
but against the rulers, against the authorities,
against the cosmic powers of this present darkness,
against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

13Therefore take up the whole armor of God,
so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day,
and having done everything, to stand firm.
14Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist,
and put on the breastplate of righteousness.
15As shoes for your feet
put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace.
16With all of these, take the shield of faith,
with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one.
17Take the helmet of salvation,
and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

18Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication.
To that end keep alert
and always persevere in supplication for all the saints.
19Pray also for me,
so that when I speak,
a message may be given to me
to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel,
20for which I am an ambassador in chains.
Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

The word of the Lord.

The Holy Gospel according to John, the sixth chapter.

Jesus said,
56"Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me,
and I in them.
57Just as the living Father sent me,
and I live because of the Father,
so whoever eats me will live because of me.
58This is the bread that came down from heaven,
not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died.
But the one who eats this bread will live forever."
59He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

60When many of his disciples heard it, they said,
"This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?"
61But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it,
said to them, "Does this offend you?
62Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was
before?
63It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless.
The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.
64But among you there are some who do not believe."
For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe,
and who was the one that would betray him.
65And he said,
"For this reason I have told you
that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father."

66Because of this many of his disciples turned back
and no longer went about with him.
67So Jesus asked the twelve,
"Do you also wish to go away?"
68Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom can we go?
You have the words of eternal life.
69We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between August 28 and September 3 inclusive

PROPER 17

AUGUST 31, 1997 *SEPTEMBER 3, 2000* *AUGUST 31, 2003*

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 4:1–2, 6–9

A reading from Deuteronomy:

1So now, Israel,
give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe,
so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the Lord,
the God of your ancestors, is giving you.
2You must neither add anything to what I command you
nor take away anything from it,
but keep the commandments of the Lord your God
with which I am charging you.
6You must observe them diligently,
for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples,
who, when they hear all these statutes, will say,
"Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!"
7For what other great nation has a god so near to it
as the Lord our God is whenever we call to him?
8And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances
as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

9But take care and watch yourselves closely,
so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen
nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life;
make them known to your children and your children's children.

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 15

SECOND READING: JAMES 1:17–27

A reading from James:

17Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift,
is from above, coming down from the Father of lights,
with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.
18In fulfillment of his own purpose
he gave us birth by the word of truth,
so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

19You must understand this, my beloved:
let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger;
20for your anger does not produce God's righteousness.
21Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness,
and welcome with meekness the implanted word
that has the power to save your souls.

22But be doers of the word,
and not merely hearers who deceive themselves.
23For if any are hearers of the word and not doers,
they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror;
24for they look at themselves and, on going away,
immediately forget what they were like.
25But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty,
and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—
they will be blessed in their doing.

26If any think they are religious,
and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts,
their religion is worthless.
27Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this:
to care for orphans and widows in their distress,
and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: MARK 7:1–8, 14–15, 21–23

The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the seventh chapter.

1Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes
who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus,
2they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands,
that is, without washing them.
3(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews,
do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands,
thus observing the tradition of the elders;

[4]and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it;
and there are also many other traditions that they observe,
the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.)
[5]So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him,
"Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders,
but eat with defiled hands?"
[6]He said to them,
"Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,
'This people honors me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me;
[7]in vain do they worship me,
teaching human precepts as doctrines.'
[8]You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition."

[14]Then he called the crowd again and said to them,
"Listen to me, all of you, and understand:
[15]there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile,
but the things that come out are what defile."
[21]For it is from within, from the human heart,
that evil intentions come:
fornication, theft, murder, [22]adultery,
avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness,
envy, slander, pride, folly.
[23]All these evil things come from within,
and they defile a person."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between September 4 and 10 inclusive

PROPER 18

SEPTEMBER 7, 1997 *SEPTEMBER 10, 2000* *SEPTEMBER 7, 2003*

FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:4–7a

A reading from Isaiah:

4Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
"Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you."

5Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
6then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
7the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water.

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 146

SECOND READING: James 2:1–10 [11–13] 14–17

A reading from James:

[1]My brothers and sisters,
do you with your acts of favoritism
really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ?
[2]For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly,
and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in,
[3]and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say,
"Have a seat here, please,"
while to the one who is poor you say,
"Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet,"
[4]have you not made distinctions among yourselves,
and become judges with evil thoughts?
[5]Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters.
Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith
and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him?
[6]But you have dishonored the poor.
Is it not the rich who oppress you?
Is it not they who drag you into court?
[7]Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

[8]You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture,
"You shall love your neighbor as yourself."
[9]But if you show partiality,
you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors.
[10]For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point
has become accountable for all of it.

[[11]For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery,"
also said, "You shall not murder."
Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder,
you have become a transgressor of the law.
[12]So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty.
[13]For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy;
mercy triumphs over judgment.]

[14]What good is it, my brothers and sisters,
if you say you have faith but do not have works?
Can faith save you?
[15]If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food,
[16]and one of you says to them,
"Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,"
and yet you do not supply their bodily needs,
what is the good of that?
[17]So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: Mark 7:24–37

The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the seventh chapter.

24Jesus set out and went away to the region of Tyre.
He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there.
Yet he could not escape notice,
25but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit
immediately heard about him,
and she came and bowed down at his feet.
26Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophoenician origin.
She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter.
27He said to her, "Let the children be fed first,
for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs."
28But she answered him,
"Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs."
29Then he said to her,
"For saying that, you may go—
the demon has left your daughter."
30So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

31Then he returned from the region of Tyre,
and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee,
in the region of the Decapolis.
32They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech;
and they begged him to lay his hand on him.
33He took him aside in private, away from the crowd,
and put his fingers into his ears,
and he spat and touched his tongue.
34Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him,
"Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened."
35And immediately his ears were opened,
his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly.
36Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one;
but the more he ordered them,
the more zealously they proclaimed it.
37They were astounded beyond measure, saying,
"He has done everything well;
he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between September 11 and 17 inclusive

PROPER 19

SEPTEMBER 14, 1997 *SEPTEMBER 17, 2000* *SEPTEMBER 14, 2003*

FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4–9a

A reading from Isaiah:

4The Lord God has given me
the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.
Morning by morning he wakens—
wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.
5The Lord God has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backward.
6I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;
I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.

7The Lord God helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
8he who vindicates me is near.
Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.
Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.
9It is the Lord God who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 116:1–9 *Psalm 116:1–8* LBW/BCP

SECOND READING: James 3:1–12

A reading from James:

[1]Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters,
for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness.
[2]For all of us make many mistakes.
Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect,
able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle.
[3]If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us,
we guide their whole bodies.
[4]Or look at ships:
though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them,
yet they are guided by a very small rudder
wherever the will of the pilot directs.

[5]So also the tongue is a small member,
yet it boasts of great exploits.
How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire!
[6]And the tongue is a fire.
The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity;
it stains the whole body,
sets on fire the cycle of nature,
and is itself set on fire by hell.
[7]For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature,
can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species,
[8]but no one can tame the tongue—
a restless evil, full of deadly poison.
[9]With it we bless the Lord and Father,
and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God.
[10]From the same mouth come blessing and cursing.
My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so.
[11]Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish
water?
[12]Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs?
No more can salt water yield fresh.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: Mark 8:27–38

The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the eighth chapter.

[27]Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi;
and on the way he asked his disciples,
"Who do people say that I am?"
[28]And they answered him,
"John the Baptist; and others, Elijah;
and still others, one of the prophets."
[29]He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?"
Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah."
[30]And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

[31]Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great
suffering,
and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes,
and be killed, and after three days rise again.
[32]He said all this quite openly.
And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.
[33]But turning and looking at his disciples,
he rebuked Peter and said,
"Get behind me, Satan!
For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

[34]He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them,
"If any want to become my followers,
let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.
[35]For those who want to save their life will lose it,
and those who lose their life for my sake,
and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.
[36]For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life?
[37]Indeed, what can they give in return for their life?
[38]Those who are ashamed of me and of my words
in this adulterous and sinful generation,
of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed
when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between September 18 and 24 inclusive

PROPER 20

SEPTEMBER 21, 1997 *SEPTEMBER 24, 2000* *SEPTEMBER 21, 2003*

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 11:18–20

Alternate Reading: Wisdom of Solomon 1:16—2:1, 12–22 (p. 407)

A reading from Jeremiah:

18It was the Lord who made it known to me, and I knew;
then you showed me their evil deeds.
19But I was like a gentle lamb
led to the slaughter.
And I did not know it was against me
that they devised schemes, saying,
"Let us destroy the tree with its fruit,
let us cut him off from the land of the living,
so that his name will no longer be remembered!"

20But you, O Lord of hosts, who judge righteously,
who try the heart and the mind,
let me see your retribution upon them,
for to you I have committed my cause.

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 54

SECOND READING: JAMES 3:13—4:3, 7–8a

A reading from James:

13Who is wise and understanding among you?
Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born
of wisdom.
14But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts,
do not be boastful and false to the truth.
15Such wisdom does not come down from above,
but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish.
16For where there is envy and selfish ambition,
there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind.
17But the wisdom from above is first pure,
then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield,
full of mercy and good fruits,
without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy.
18And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

4:1Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from?
Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you?
2You want something and do not have it;
so you commit murder.
And you covet something and cannot obtain it;
so you engage in disputes and conflicts.
You do not have, because you do not ask.
3You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly,
in order to spend what you get on your pleasures.

7Submit yourselves therefore to God.
Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.
8Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: Mark 9:30–37

The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the ninth chapter.

30 Jesus and the disciples went on and passed through Galilee.
He did not want anyone to know it;
31 for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them,
"The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands,
and they will kill him,
and three days after being killed, he will rise again."
32 But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

33 Then they came to Capernaum;
and when he was in the house he asked them,
"What were you arguing about on the way?"
34 But they were silent,
for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest.
35 He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them,
"Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all."
36 Then he took a little child and put it among them;
and taking it in his arms, he said to them,
37 "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me,
and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between September 25 and October 1 inclusive

PROPER 21

SEPTEMBER 28, 1997 *OCTOBER 1, 2000* *SEPTEMBER 28, 2003*

FIRST READING: Numbers 11:4–6, 10–16, 24–29

A reading from Numbers:

4The rabble among them had a strong craving;
and the Israelites also wept again, and said,
"If only we had meat to eat!
5We remember the fish we used to eat in Egypt for nothing,
the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic;
6but now our strength is dried up,
and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at."

10Moses heard the people weeping throughout their families,
all at the entrances of their tents.
Then the LORD became very angry, and Moses was displeased.
11So Moses said to the LORD,
"Why have you treated your servant so badly?
Why have I not found favor in your sight,
that you lay the burden of all this people on me?
12Did I conceive all this people?
Did I give birth to them, that you should say to me,
'Carry them in your bosom, as a nurse carries a sucking child,'
to the land that you promised on oath to their ancestors?
13Where am I to get meat to give to all this people?
For they come weeping to me and say, 'Give us meat to eat!'
14I am not able to carry all this people alone,
for they are too heavy for me.
15If this is the way you are going to treat me,
put me to death at once—
if I have found favor in your sight—
and do not let me see my misery."

16So the LORD said to Moses,
"Gather for me seventy of the elders of Israel,
whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them;
bring them to the tent of meeting,
and have them take their place there with you."

[24]So Moses went out and told the people the words of the LORD;
and he gathered seventy elders of the people,
and placed them all around the tent.
[25]Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to him,
and took some of the spirit that was on him
and put it on the seventy elders;
and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied.
But they did not do so again.

[26]Two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad,
and the other named Medad,
and the spirit rested on them;
they were among those registered,
but they had not gone out to the tent,
and so they prophesied in the camp.
[27]And a young man ran and told Moses,
"Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp."
[28]And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men, said,
"My lord Moses, stop them!"
[29]But Moses said to him,
"Are you jealous for my sake?
Would that all the LORD's people were prophets,
and that the LORD would put his spirit on them!"

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: PSALM 19:7–14

SECOND READING: James 5:13–20

A reading from James:

13 Are any among you suffering?
They should pray.
Are any cheerful?
They should sing songs of praise.
14 Are any among you sick?
They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them,
anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord.
15 The prayer of faith will save the sick,
and the Lord will raise them up;
and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven.
16 Therefore confess your sins to one another,
and pray for one another, so that you may be healed.
The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.

17 Elijah was a human being like us,
and he prayed fervently that it might not rain,
and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth.
18 Then he prayed again,
and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

19 My brothers and sisters,
if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another,
20 you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering
will save the sinner's soul from death
and will cover a multitude of sins.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: Mark 9:38–50

The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the ninth chapter.

38John said to Jesus,
"Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name,
and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us."
39But Jesus said, "Do not stop him;
for no one who does a deed of power in my name
will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me.
40Whoever is not against us is for us.
41For truly I tell you,
whoever gives you a cup of water to drink
because you bear the name of Christ
will by no means lose the reward.

42"If any of you put a stumbling block
before one of these little ones who believe in me,
it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck
and you were thrown into the sea.
43If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off;
it is better for you to enter life maimed
than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire.
45And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off;
it is better for you to enter life lame
than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell.
47And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out;
it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye
than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell,
48where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

49"For everyone will be salted with fire.
50Salt is good;
but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it?
Have salt in yourselves,
and be at peace with one another."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between October 2 and 8 inclusive

PROPER 22

OCTOBER 5, 1997 *OCTOBER 8, 2000* *OCTOBER 5, 2003*

FIRST READING: Genesis 2:18–24

A reading from Genesis:

18 The Lord God said,
"It is not good that the man should be alone;
I will make him a helper as his partner."
19 So out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field
and every bird of the air,
and brought them to the man to see what he would call them;
and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name.
20 The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air,
and to every animal of the field;
but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner.

21 So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept;
then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh.
22 And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into
a woman
and brought her to the man.
23 Then the man said,
"This at last is bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
this one shall be called Woman,
for out of Man this one was taken."
24 Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife,
and they become one flesh.

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 8

SECOND READING: Hebrews 1:1–4; 2:5–12

A reading from Hebrews:

1 Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the
prophets,
2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son,
whom he appointed heir of all things,
through whom he also created the worlds.
3 He is the reflection of God's glory
and the exact imprint of God's very being,
and he sustains all things by his powerful word.
When he had made purification for sins,
he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,
4 having become as much superior to angels
as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

2:5 Now God did not subject the coming world,
about which we are speaking, to angels.
6 But someone has testified somewhere,
"What are human beings that you are mindful of them,
or mortals, that you care for them?
7 You have made them for a little while lower than the angels;
you have crowned them with glory and honor,
8 subjecting all things under their feet."
Now in subjecting all things to them,
God left nothing outside their control.
As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them,
9 but we do see Jesus,
who for a little while was made lower than the angels,
now crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death,
so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

10 It was fitting that God,
for whom and through whom all things exist,
in bringing many children to glory,
should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings.
11 For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father.
For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters,
12 saying,
"I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters,
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you."

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: Mark 10:2–16

The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the tenth chapter.

2Some Pharisees came, and to test Jesus they asked,
"Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?"
3He answered them, "What did Moses command you?"
4They said,
"Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her."
5But Jesus said to them,
"Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you.
6But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.'
7'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother
and be joined to his wife,
8and the two shall become one flesh.'
So they are no longer two, but one flesh.
9Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."
10Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter.
11He said to them,
"Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her;
12and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery."

13People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them;
and the disciples spoke sternly to them.
14But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them,
"Let the little children come to me; do not stop them;
for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs.
15Truly I tell you,
whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child
will never enter it."
16And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between October 9 and 15 inclusive

PROPER 23

OCTOBER 12, 1997 *OCTOBER 15, 2000* *OCTOBER 12, 2003*

FIRST READING: Amos 5:6–7, 10–15

A reading from Amos:

6Seek the Lord and live,
or he will break out against the house of Joseph like fire,
and it will devour Bethel, with no one to quench it.
7Ah, you that turn justice to wormwood,
and bring righteousness to the ground!

10They hate the one who reproves in the gate,
and they abhor the one who speaks the truth.
11Therefore because you trample on the poor
and take from them levies of grain,
you have built houses of hewn stone,
but you shall not live in them;
you have planted pleasant vineyards,
but you shall not drink their wine.
12For I know how many are your transgressions,
and how great are your sins—
you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe,
and push aside the needy in the gate.
13Therefore the prudent will keep silent in such a time;
for it is an evil time.

14Seek good and not evil,
that you may live;
and so the Lord, the God of hosts, will be with you,
just as you have said.
15Hate evil and love good,
and establish justice in the gate;
it may be that the Lord, the God of hosts,
will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 90:12–17

SECOND READING: Hebrews 4:12–16

A reading from Hebrews:

12Indeed, the word of God is living and active,
sharper than any two-edged sword,
piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow;
it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.
13And before him no creature is hidden,
but all are naked and laid bare
to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account.

14Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens,
Jesus, the Son of God,
let us hold fast to our confession.
15For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses,
but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are,
yet without sin.
16Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness,
so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: Mark 10:17–31

The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the tenth chapter.

17As Jesus was setting out on a journey,
a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him,
"Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"
18Jesus said to him,
"Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone.
19You know the commandments:
'You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery;
You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness;
You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.' "
20He said to him,
"Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth."
21Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said,
"You lack one thing;
go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor,
and you will have treasure in heaven;
then come, follow me."
22When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving,
for he had many possessions.

[23]Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples,
"How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!"
[24]And the disciples were perplexed at these words.
But Jesus said to them again,
"Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God!
[25]It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle
than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God."
[26]They were greatly astounded and said to one another,
"Then who can be saved?"
[27]Jesus looked at them and said,
"For mortals it is impossible, but not for God;
for God all things are possible."

[28]Peter began to say to him,
"Look, we have left everything and followed you."
[29]Jesus said, "Truly I tell you,
there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters
or mother or father or children or fields,
for my sake and for the sake of the good news,
[30]who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—
houses, brothers and sisters,
mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—
and in the age to come eternal life.
[31]But many who are first will be last,
and the last will be first."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between October 16 and 22 inclusive

PROPER 24

OCTOBER 19, 1997 *OCTOBER 22, 2000* *OCTOBER 19, 2003*

FIRST READING: Isaiah 53:4–12

A reading from Isaiah:

4Surely he has borne our infirmities
and carried our diseases;
yet we accounted him stricken,
struck down by God, and afflicted.
5But he was wounded for our transgressions,
crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the punishment that made us whole,
and by his bruises we are healed.
6All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have all turned to our own way,
and the Lord has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

7He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
yet he did not open his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.
8By a perversion of justice he was taken away.
Who could have imagined his future?
For he was cut off from the land of the living,
stricken for the transgression of my people.
9They made his grave with the wicked
and his tomb with the rich,
although he had done no violence,
and there was no deceit in his mouth.

10Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him with pain.
When you make his life an offering for sin,
he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days;
through him the will of the Lord shall prosper.
11Out of his anguish he shall see light;
he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge.

The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous,
and he shall bear their iniquities.
12Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great,
and he shall divide the spoil with the strong;
because he poured out himself to death,
and was numbered with the transgressors;
yet he bore the sin of many,
and made intercession for the transgressors.

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: PSALM 91:9–16

SECOND READING: Hebrews 5:1–10

A reading from Hebrews:

[1]Every high priest chosen from among mortals
is put in charge of things pertaining to God on their behalf,
to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins.
[2]He is able to deal gently with the ignorant and wayward,
since he himself is subject to weakness;
[3]and because of this he must offer sacrifice for his own sins
as well as for those of the people.
[4]And one does not presume to take this honor,
but takes it only when called by God, just as Aaron was.

[5]So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest,
but was appointed by the one who said to him,
"You are my Son,
today I have begotten you";
[6]as he says also in another place,
"You are a priest forever,
according to the order of Melchizedek."

[7]In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications,
with loud cries and tears,
to the one who was able to save him from death,
and he was heard because of his reverent submission.
[8]Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered;
[9]and having been made perfect,
he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him,
[10]having been designated by God a high priest according to the order
of Melchizedek.

The word of the Lord.

The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the tenth chapter.

35James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to Jesus and said
to him,
"Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you."
36And he said to them, "What is it you want me to do for you?"
37And they said to him,
"Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory."
38But Jesus said to them,
"You do not know what you are asking.
Are you able to drink the cup that I drink,
or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?"
39They replied, "We are able."
Then Jesus said to them,
"The cup that I drink you will drink;
and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized;
40but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant,
but it is for those for whom it has been prepared."

41When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John.
42So Jesus called them and said to them,
"You know that among the Gentiles
those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them,
and their great ones are tyrants over them.
43But it is not so among you;
but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant,
44and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all.
45For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve,
and to give his life a ransom for many."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between October 23 and 29 inclusive

PROPER 25

OCTOBER 26, 1997 *OCTOBER 29, 2000* *OCTOBER 26, 2003*

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:7–9

A reading from Jeremiah:

7Thus says the Lord:
Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
"Save, O Lord, your people,
the remnant of Israel."
8See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame,
those with child and those in labor, together;
a great company, they shall return here.
9With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back,
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 126

SECOND READING: Hebrews 7:23–28

A reading from Hebrews:

23The former priests were many in number,
because they were prevented by death from continuing in office;
24but he holds his priesthood permanently,
because he continues forever.
25Consequently he is able for all time to save those who approach God through him,
since he always lives to make intercession for them.

26For it was fitting that we should have such a high priest,
holy, blameless, undefiled, separated from sinners,
and exalted above the heavens.
27Unlike the other high priests,
he has no need to offer sacrifices day after day,
first for his own sins, and then for those of the people;
this he did once for all when he offered himself.
28For the law appoints as high priests those who are subject to weakness,
but the word of the oath, which came later than the law,
appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: Mark 10:46–52

The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the tenth chapter.

46As Jesus and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho,
Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside.
47When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth,
he began to shout out and say,
"Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"
48Many sternly ordered him to be quiet,
but he cried out even more loudly,
"Son of David, have mercy on me!"
49Jesus stood still and said, "Call him here."
And they called the blind man, saying to him,
"Take heart; get up, he is calling you."
50So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus.
51Then Jesus said to him,
"What do you want me to do for you?"
The blind man said to him, "My teacher, let me see again."
52Jesus said to him,
"Go; your faith has made you well."
Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between October 30 and November 5 inclusive

PROPER 26

NOVEMBER 2, 1997 *NOVEMBER 5, 2000* *NOVEMBER 2, 2003*

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 6:1–9

A reading from Deuteronomy:

Moses said to the people,
[1]Now this is the commandment—the statutes and the ordinances—
that the Lord your God charged me to teach you to observe
in the land that you are about to cross into and occupy,
[2]so that you and your children and your children's children,
may fear the Lord your God all the days of your life,
and keep all his decrees and his commandments that I am commanding you,
so that your days may be long.
[3]Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe them diligently,
so that it may go well with you,
and so that you may multiply greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey,
as the Lord, the God of your ancestors, has promised you.

[4]Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.
[5]You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
and with all your soul, and with all your might.
[6]Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart.
[7]Recite them to your children
and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away,
when you lie down and when you rise.
[8]Bind them as a sign on your hand,
fix them as an emblem on your forehead,
[9]and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 119:1–8

SECOND READING: Hebrews 9:11–14

A reading from Hebrews:

11When Christ came as a high priest of the good things that have come,
then through the greater and perfect tent
(not made with hands, that is, not of this creation),
12he entered once for all into the Holy Place,
not with the blood of goats and calves,
but with his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption.
13For if the blood of goats and bulls,
with the sprinkling of the ashes of a heifer,
sanctifies those who have been defiled so that their flesh is purified,
14how much more will the blood of Christ,
who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God,
purify our conscience from dead works to worship the living God!

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: Mark 12:28–34

The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the twelfth chapter.

28One of the scribes came near and heard Jesus and the Sadducees disputing
with one another,
and seeing that Jesus answered them well, he asked him,
"Which commandment is the first of all?"
29Jesus answered, "The first is,
'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one;
30you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul,
and with all your mind, and with all your strength.'
31The second is this,
'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'
There is no other commandment greater than these."

32Then the scribe said to him,
"You are right, Teacher;
you have truly said that 'he is one, and besides him there is no other';
33and 'to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding,
and with all the strength,'
and 'to love one's neighbor as oneself,'—
this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices."
34When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him,
"You are not far from the kingdom of God."
After that no one dared to ask him any question.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between November 6 and 12 inclusive

PROPER 27

NOVEMBER 9, 1997 *NOVEMBER 12, 2000* *NOVEMBER 9, 2003*

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 17:8–16

A reading from First Kings:

8The word of the Lord came to Elijah, saying,
9"Go now to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and live there;
for I have commanded a widow there to feed you."
10So he set out and went to Zarephath.
When he came to the gate of the town,
a widow was there gathering sticks;
he called to her and said,
"Bring me a little water in a vessel, so that I may drink."
11As she was going to bring it, he called to her and said,
"Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand."
12But she said,
"As the Lord your God lives, I have nothing baked,
only a handful of meal in a jar, and a little oil in a jug;
I am now gathering a couple of sticks,
so that I may go home and prepare it for myself and my son,
that we may eat it, and die."

13Elijah said to her, "Do not be afraid; go and do as you have said;
but first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me,
and afterwards make something for yourself and your son.
14For thus says the Lord the God of Israel:
The jar of meal will not be emptied
and the jug of oil will not fail
until the day that the Lord sends rain on the earth."

15She went and did as Elijah said,
so that she as well as he and her household ate for many days.
16The jar of meal was not emptied, neither did the jug of oil fail,
according to the word of the Lord that he spoke by Elijah.

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 146

SECOND READING: Hebrews 9:24–28

A reading from Hebrews:

[24]Christ did not enter a sanctuary made by human hands,
a mere copy of the true one,
but he entered into heaven itself,
now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf.
[25]Nor was it to offer himself again and again,
as the high priest enters the Holy Place year after year
with blood that is not his own;
[26]for then he would have had to suffer again and again
since the foundation of the world.

But as it is,
he has appeared once for all at the end of the age
to remove sin by the sacrifice of himself.
[27]And just as it is appointed for mortals to die once,
and after that the judgment,
[28]so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many,
will appear a second time,
not to deal with sin,
but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: Mark 12:38–44

The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the twelfth chapter.

38As Jesus taught, he said,
"Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes,
and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces,
39and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor
at banquets!
40They devour widows' houses
and for the sake of appearance say long prayers.
They will receive the greater condemnation."

41He sat down opposite the treasury,
and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury.
Many rich people put in large sums.
42A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins,
which are worth a penny.
43Then he called his disciples and said to them,
"Truly I tell you,
this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the
treasury.
44For all of them have contributed out of their abundance;
but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had,
all she had to live on."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between November 13 and 19 inclusive

PROPER 28

NOVEMBER 16, 1997 *NOVEMBER 19, 2000* *NOVEMBER 16, 2003*

FIRST READING: Daniel 12:1–3

A reading from Daniel:

1"At that time Michael, the great prince, the protector of your people,
shall arise.
There shall be a time of anguish,
such as has never occurred since nations first came into existence.
But at that time your people shall be delivered,
everyone who is found written in the book.
2Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake,
some to everlasting life,
and some to shame and everlasting contempt.
3Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky,
and those who lead many to righteousness,
like the stars forever and ever."

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 16

SECOND READING: Hebrews 10:11–14 [15–18] 19–25

A reading from Hebrews:

11Every priest stands day after day at his service,
offering again and again the same sacrifices that can never take away sins.
12But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins,
"he sat down at the right hand of God,"
13and since then has been waiting
"until his enemies would be made a footstool for his feet."
14For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are
sanctified.

[15And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us, for after saying,
16"This is the covenant that I will make with them
after those days, says the Lord:
I will put my laws in their hearts,
and I will write them on their minds,"
17he also adds,
"I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more."
18Where there is forgiveness of these,
there is no longer any offering for sin.]

19Therefore, my friends,
since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus,
20by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain
(that is, through his flesh),
21and since we have a great priest over the house of God,
22let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith,
with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience
and our bodies washed with pure water.
23Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering,
for he who has promised is faithful.
24And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds,
25not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some,
but encouraging one another,
and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: Mark 13:1–8

The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 13th chapter.

[1]As Jesus came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him,
"Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!"
[2]Then Jesus asked him, "Do you see these great buildings?
Not one stone will be left here upon another;
all will be thrown down."

[3]When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple,
Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately,
[4]"Tell us, when will this be,
and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?"
[5]Then Jesus began to say to them,
"Beware that no one leads you astray.
[6]Many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!'
and they will lead many astray.
[7]When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed;
this must take place, but the end is still to come.
[8]For nation will rise against nation,
and kingdom against kingdom;
there will be earthquakes in various places;
there will be famines.
This is but the beginning of the birth pangs."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Christ the King

Last Sunday after Pentecost†

PROPER 29

NOVEMBER 23, 1997 *NOVEMBER 26, 2000* *NOVEMBER 23, 2003*

FIRST READING: Daniel 7:9–10, 13–14

A reading from Daniel:

9As I watched,
thrones were set in place,
and an Ancient One took his throne,
his clothing was white as snow,
and the hair of his head like pure wool;
his throne was fiery flames,
and its wheels were burning fire.
10A stream of fire issued
and flowed out from his presence.
A thousand thousands served him,
and ten thousand times ten thousand stood attending him.
The court sat in judgment,
and the books were opened.

13As I watched in the night visions,
I saw one like a human being
coming with the clouds of heaven.
And he came to the Ancient One
and was presented before him.
14To him was given dominion
and glory and kingship,
that all peoples, nations, and languages
should serve him.
His dominion is an everlasting dominion
that shall not pass away,
and his kingship is one
that shall never be destroyed.

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 93

†*Sunday between November 20 and 26 inclusive*

SECOND READING: Revelation 1:4b–8

A reading from Revelation:

4b Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come,
and from the seven spirits who are before his throne,
5 and from Jesus Christ,
the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead,
and the ruler of the kings of the earth.
To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood,
6 and made us to be a kingdom,
priests serving his God and Father,
to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.
7 Look! He is coming with the clouds;
every eye will see him,
even those who pierced him;
and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.
So it is to be. Amen.

8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega,"
says the Lord God,
who is and who was and who is to come,
the Almighty.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: John 18:33–37

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 18th chapter.

33 Pilate entered the headquarters again,
summoned Jesus, and asked him,
"Are you the King of the Jews?"
34 Jesus answered,
"Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?"
35 Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I?
Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me.
What have you done?"
36 Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world.
If my kingdom were from this world,
my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews.
But as it is, my kingdom is not from here."
37 Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?"
Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king.
For this I was born, and for this I came into the world,
to testify to the truth.
Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Lesser Festivals and Occasions

St. Andrew, Apostle

NOVEMBER 30

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 3:16–21

A reading from Ezekiel:

16At the end of seven days, the word of the Lord came to me:
17Mortal, I have made you a sentinel for the house of Israel;
whenever you hear a word from my mouth,
you shall give them warning from me.
18If I say to the wicked, "You shall surely die,"
and you give them no warning,
or speak to warn the wicked from their wicked way, in order to save their life,
those wicked persons shall die for their iniquity;
but their blood I will require at your hand.
19But if you warn the wicked,
and they do not turn from their wickedness, or from their wicked way,
they shall die for their iniquity; but you will have saved your life.

20Again, if the righteous turn from their righteousness and commit iniquity,
and I lay a stumbling block before them, they shall die;
because you have not warned them, they shall die for their sin,
and their righteous deeds that they have done shall not be remembered;
but their blood I will require at your hand.
21If, however, you warn the righteous not to sin, and they do not sin,
they shall surely live, because they took warning;
and you will have saved your life.

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 19:1–6

SECOND READING: Romans 10:10–18

A reading from Romans:

10One believes with the heart and so is justified,
and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved.
11The scripture says,
"No one who believes in him will be put to shame."

12For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek;
the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him.
13For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

14But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed?
And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard?
And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him?
15And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent?
As it is written,
"How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"
16But not all have obeyed the good news; for Isaiah says,
"Lord, who has believed our message?"
17So faith comes from what is heard,
and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.
18But I ask, have they not heard? Indeed they have; for
"Their voice has gone out to all the earth,
and their words to the ends of the world."

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: John 1:35–42

The Holy Gospel according to John, the first chapter.

35The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples,
36and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed,
"Look, here is the Lamb of God!"
37The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus.
38When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them,
"What are you looking for?"
They said to him,
"Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher),
"where are you staying?"
39He said to them, "Come and see."

They came and saw where he was staying,
and they remained with him that day.
It was about four o'clock in the afternoon.
40One of the two who heard John speak and followed him
was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.
41He first found his brother Simon and said to him,
"We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed).
42He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said,
"You are Simon son of John.
You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

The Gospel of the Lord.

St. Thomas, Apostle

DECEMBER 21

FIRST READING: Judges 6:36–40

A reading from Judges:

36Gideon said to God,
"In order to see whether you will deliver Israel by my hand, as you have said,
37I am going to lay a fleece of wool on the threshing floor;
if there is dew on the fleece alone, and it is dry on all the ground,
then I shall know that you will deliver Israel by my hand, as you have said."
38And it was so.
When he rose early next morning and squeezed the fleece,
he wrung enough dew from the fleece to fill a bowl with water.

39Then Gideon said to God, "Do not let your anger burn against me,
let me speak one more time;
let me, please, make trial with the fleece just once more;
let it be dry only on the fleece, and on all the ground let there be dew."
40And God did so that night.
It was dry on the fleece only, and on all the ground there was dew.

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 136:1–4, 23–26

SECOND READING: Ephesians 4:11–16

A reading from Ephesians:

11The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles,
some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers,
12to equip the saints for the work of ministry,
for building up the body of Christ,
13until all of us come to the unity of the faith
and of the knowledge of the Son of God,
to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.

14We must no longer be children,
tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine,
by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming.

15But speaking the truth in love,
we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,
16from whom the whole body,
joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped,
as each part is working properly,
promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: John 14:1–7

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 14th chapter.

Jesus said to the disciples:
1"Do not let your hearts be troubled.
Believe in God, believe also in me.
2In my Father's house there are many dwelling places.
If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?
3And if I go and prepare a place for you,
I will come again and will take you to myself,
so that where I am, there you may be also.
4And you know the way to the place where I am going."

5Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going.
How can we know the way?"
6Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life.
No one comes to the Father except through me.
7If you know me, you will know my Father also.
From now on you do know him and have seen him."

The Gospel of the Lord.

St. Stephen, Deacon and Martyr

DECEMBER 26

FIRST READING: 2 Chronicles 24:17–22

A reading from Second Chronicles:

17Now after the death of Jehoiada the officials of Judah came
and did obeisance to the king;
then the king listened to them.
18They abandoned the house of the LORD, the God of their ancestors,
and served the sacred poles and the idols.
And wrath came upon Judah and Jerusalem for this guilt of theirs.
19Yet he sent prophets among them to bring them back to the LORD;
they testified against them, but they would not listen.

20Then the spirit of God took possession of Zechariah
son of the priest Jehoiada;
he stood above the people and said to them,
"Thus says God:
Why do you transgress the commandments of the LORD,
so that you cannot prosper?
Because you have forsaken the LORD, he has also forsaken you."
21But they conspired against him,
and by command of the king
they stoned him to death in the court of the house of the LORD.
22King Joash did not remember the kindness that Jehoiada,
Zechariah's father, had shown him, but killed his son.
As he was dying, he said, "May the LORD see and avenge!"

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 17:1–9, 15 *Psalm 17:1–9, 16* LBW/BCP

SECOND READING: Acts 6:8—7:2a, 51–60

A reading from Acts:

8Stephen, full of grace and power,
did great wonders and signs among the people.
9Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen
(as it was called),

Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and others of those from Cilicia and Asia,
stood up and argued with Stephen.
10But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke.
11Then they secretly instigated some men to say,
"We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God."

12They stirred up the people as well as the elders and the scribes;
then they suddenly confronted him, seized him,
and brought him before the council.
13They set up false witnesses who said,
"This man never stops saying things against this holy place and the law;
14for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place
and will change the customs that Moses handed on to us."
15And all who sat in the council looked intently at him,
and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel.
7:1Then the high priest asked him,
"Are these things so?"
2And Stephen replied: "Brothers and fathers, listen to me.

51"You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears,
you are forever opposing the Holy Spirit, just as your ancestors used to do.
52Which of the prophets did your ancestors not persecute?
They killed those who foretold the coming of the Righteous One,
and now you have become his betrayers and murderers.
53You are the ones that received the law as ordained by angels,
and yet you have not kept it."

54When they heard these things, they became enraged
and ground their teeth at Stephen.
55But filled with the Holy Spirit,
he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God
and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.
56"Look," he said,
"I see the heavens opened
and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!"

57But they covered their ears,
and with a loud shout all rushed together against him.
58Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him;
and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul.
59While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed,
"Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."
60Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice,
"Lord, do not hold this sin against them."
When he had said this, he died.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 23:34–39

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 23rd chapter.

Jesus said:
34"Therefore I send you prophets, sages, and scribes,
some of whom you will kill and crucify,
and some you will flog in your synagogues and pursue from town to town,
35so that upon you may come all the righteous blood shed on earth,
from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah son of Barachiah,
whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar.
36Truly I tell you, all this will come upon this generation.

37"Jerusalem, Jerusalem,
the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it!
How often have I desired to gather your children together
as a hen gathers her brood under her wings,
and you were not willing!
38See, your house is left to you, desolate.
39For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say,
'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.' "

The Gospel of the Lord.

St. John, Apostle and Evangelist

DECEMBER 27

FIRST READING: Genesis 1:1–5, 26–31

A reading from Genesis:

1In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth,
2the earth was a formless void
and darkness covered the face of the deep,
while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.
3Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.
4And God saw that the light was good;
and God separated the light from the darkness.
5God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night.
And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

26Then God said,
"Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness;
and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea,
and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle,
and over all the wild animals of the earth,
and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

27So God created humankind in his image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.
28God blessed them, and God said to them,
"Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it;
and have dominion over the fish of the sea
and over the birds of the air
and over every living thing that moves upon the earth."

29God said,
"See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face
of all the earth,
and every tree with seed in its fruit;
you shall have them for food.
30And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air,
and to everything that creeps on the earth,
everything that has the breath of life,
I have given every green plant for food."

And it was so.

31God saw everything that he had made,
and indeed, it was very good.
And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: PSALM 116:12–19 *Psalm 116:10–17* LBW/BCP

SECOND READING: 1 JOHN 1:1—2:2

A reading from First John:

1We declare to you what was from the beginning,
what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes,
what we have looked at and touched with our hands,
concerning the word of life—
2this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it,
and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father
and was revealed to us—
3we declare to you what we have seen and heard
so that you also may have fellowship with us;
and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.
4We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

5This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you,
that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all.
6If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness,
we lie and do not do what is true;
7but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light,
we have fellowship with one another,
and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.
8If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves,
and the truth is not in us.
9If we confess our sins,
he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins
and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
10If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar,
and his word is not in us.

2:1My little children,
I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin.
But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father,
Jesus Christ the righteous;
2and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins,
and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: John 21:20–25

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 21st chapter.

[20]Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them;
he was the one who had reclined next to Jesus at the supper and had said,
"Lord, who is it that is going to betray you?"
[21]When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus,
"Lord, what about him?"
[22]Jesus said to him,
"If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you?
Follow me!"
[23]So the rumor spread in the community that this disciple would not die.
Yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but,
"If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you?"

[24]This is the disciple who is testifying to these things
and has written them, and we know that his testimony is true.
[25]But there are also many other things that Jesus did;
if every one of them were written down,
I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.

The Gospel of the Lord.

The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

DECEMBER 28

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:15–17

A reading from Jeremiah:

15Thus says the Lord:
A voice is heard in Ramah,
lamentation and bitter weeping.
Rachel is weeping for her children;
she refuses to be comforted for her children,
because they are no more.
16Thus says the Lord:
Keep your voice from weeping,
and your eyes from tears;
for there is a reward for your work,
says the Lord:
they shall come back from the land of the enemy;
17there is hope for your future,
says the Lord:
your children shall come back to their own country.

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 124

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 4:12–19

A reading from First Peter:

12Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal
that is taking place among you to test you,
as though something strange were happening to you.
13But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings,
so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed.
14If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed,
because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.
15But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief,
a criminal, or even as a mischief maker.

16Yet if any of you suffers as a Christian, do not consider it a disgrace,
but glorify God because you bear this name.
17For the time has come for judgment to begin with the household of God;
if it begins with us,
what will be the end for those who do not obey the gospel of God?
18And
"If it is hard for the righteous to be saved,
what will become of the ungodly and the sinners?"
19Therefore, let those suffering in accordance with God's will
entrust themselves to a faithful Creator, while continuing to do good.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 2:13–18

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the second chapter.

13Now after the wise men had left,
an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said,
"Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt,
and remain there until I tell you;
for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him."
14Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night,
and went to Egypt,
15and remained there until the death of Herod.
This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet,
"Out of Egypt I have called my son."

16When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men,
he was infuriated,
and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem
who were two years old or under,
according to the time that he had learned from the wise men.
17Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:
18"A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

The Gospel of the Lord.

The Name of Jesus

JANUARY 1

FIRST READING: Numbers 6:22–27

A reading from Numbers:

22The Lord spoke to Moses, saying:
23Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying,
Thus you shall bless the Israelites:
You shall say to them,
24The Lord bless you and keep you;
25the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you;
26the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

27So they shall put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 8

SECOND READING: Galatians 4:4–7
Or Philippians 2:5–11, following

A reading from Galatians:

4When the fullness of time had come,
God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law,
5in order to redeem those who were under the law,
so that we might receive adoption as children.
6And because you are children,
God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts,
crying, "Abba! Father!"
7So you are no longer a slave but a child,
and if a child then also an heir, through God.

The word of the Lord.

OR: PHILIPPIANS 2:5–11

A reading from Philippians:

5Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
6who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
7but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
8he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.
9Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name that is above every name,
10so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
11and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: LUKE 2:15–21

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the second chapter.

15When the angels had left them and gone into heaven,
the shepherds said to one another,
"Let us go now to Bethlehem
and see this thing that has taken place,
which the Lord has made known to us."
16So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph,
and the child lying in the manger.
17When they saw this,
they made known what had been told them about this child;
18and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.
19But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.
20The shepherds returned,
glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen,
as it had been told them.

21After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child;
and he was called Jesus,
the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

The Gospel of the Lord.

The Confession of St. Peter

JANUARY 18

FIRST READING: Acts 4:8–13

A reading from Acts:

8 Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to the authorities,
"Rulers of the people and elders,
9 if we are questioned today
because of a good deed done to someone who was sick
and are asked how this man has been healed,
10 let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel,
that this man is standing before you in good health
by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth,
whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead.
11 This Jesus is
'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;
it has become the cornerstone.'
12 There is salvation in no one else,
for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals
by which we must be saved."

13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John
and realized that they were uneducated and ordinary men,
they were amazed and recognized them as companions of Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 18:1–6, 16–19 *Psalm 18:1–7, 17–20* LBW/BCP

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 10:1–5

A reading from First Corinthians:

1I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters,
that our ancestors were all under the cloud,
and all passed through the sea,
2and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea,
3and all ate the same spiritual food,
4and all drank the same spiritual drink.
For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them,
and the rock was Christ.
5Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them,
and they were struck down in the wilderness.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 16:13–19

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 16th chapter.

13Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi,
he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"
14And they said,
"Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah,
and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."
15He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"
16Simon Peter answered,
"You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

17And Jesus answered him,
"Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah!
For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you,
but my Father in heaven.
18And I tell you, you are Peter,
and on this rock I will build my church,
and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it.
19I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven,
and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven,
and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

The Gospel of the Lord.

The Conversion of St. Paul

JANUARY 25

FIRST READING: Acts 9:1–22

A reading from Acts:

[1]Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord,
went to the high priest
[2]and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus,
so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women,
he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

[3]Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus,
suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him.
[4]He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him,
"Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"
[5]He asked, "Who are you, Lord?"
The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.
[6]But get up and enter the city,
and you will be told what you are to do."
[7]The men who were traveling with him stood speechless
because they heard the voice but saw no one.
[8]Saul got up from the ground,
and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing;
so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus.
[9]For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

[10]Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias.
The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias."
He answered, "Here I am, Lord."
[11]The Lord said to him,
"Get up and go to the street called Straight,
and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul.
At this moment he is praying,
[12]and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in
and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight."
[13]But Ananias answered,
"Lord, I have heard from many about this man,
how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem;
[14]and here he has authority from the chief priests
to bind all who invoke your name."

15But the Lord said to him,
"Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen
to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel;
16I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name."

17So Ananias went and entered the house.
He laid his hands on Saul and said,
"Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here,
has sent me so that you may regain your sight
and be filled with the Holy Spirit."
18And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes,
and his sight was restored.
Then he got up and was baptized,
19and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus,
20and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying,
"He is the Son of God."
21All who heard him were amazed and said,
"Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem
among those who invoked this name?
And has he not come here
for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?"
22Saul became increasingly more powerful
and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus
by proving that Jesus was the Messiah.

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: PSALM 67

SECOND READING: GALATIANS 1:11–24

A reading from Galatians:

11I want you to know, brothers and sisters,
that the gospel that was proclaimed by me is not of human origin;
12for I did not receive it from a human source,
nor was I taught it,
but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.

13You have heard, no doubt, of my earlier life in Judaism.
I was violently persecuting the church of God and was trying to destroy it.
14I advanced in Judaism beyond many among my people of the same age,
for I was far more zealous for the traditions of my ancestors.

15But when God, who had set me apart before I was born
and called me through his grace,

was pleased [16]to reveal his Son to me,
so that I might proclaim him among the Gentiles,
I did not confer with any human being,
[17]nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were already apostles before me,
but I went away at once into Arabia,
and afterwards I returned to Damascus.
[18]Then after three years I did go up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas
and stayed with him fifteen days;
[19]but I did not see any other apostle except James the Lord's brother.
[20]In what I am writing to you, before God, I do not lie!
[21]Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia,
[22]and I was still unknown by sight to the churches of Judea that are in Christ;
[23]they only heard it said,
"The one who formerly was persecuting us
is now proclaiming the faith he once tried to destroy."
[24]And they glorified God because of me.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 21:10–19

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 21st chapter.

[10]Jesus said to the disciples,
"Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom;
[11]there will be great earthquakes,
and in various places famines and plagues;
and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

[12]"But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you;
they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons,
and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name.
[13]This will give you an opportunity to testify.
[14]So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance;
[15]for I will give you words and a wisdom
that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict.
[16]You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers,
by relatives and friends;
and they will put some of you to death.
[17]You will be hated by all because of my name.
[18]But not a hair of your head will perish.
[19]By your endurance you will gain your souls."

The Gospel of the Lord.

The Presentation of Our Lord

FEBRUARY 2

FIRST READING: Malachi 3:1–4

A reading from Malachi:

[1]See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me,
and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple.
The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—
indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts.
[2]But who can endure the day of his coming,
and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap;
[3]he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver,
and he will purify the descendants of Levi
and refine them like gold and silver,
until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness.
[4]Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord
as in the days of old and as in former years.

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 84 or Psalm 24:7–10

SECOND READING: Hebrews 2:14–18

A reading from Hebrews:

[14]Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood,
Jesus himself likewise shared the same things,
so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death,
that is, the devil,
[15]and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death.

16For it is clear that he did not come to help angels,
but the descendants of Abraham.
17Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect,
so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God,
to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people.
18Because he himself was tested by what he suffered,
he is able to help those who are being tested.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 2:22–40

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the second chapter.

22When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses,
Mary and Joseph brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord
23(as it is written in the law of the Lord,
"Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"),
24and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord,
"a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

25Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon;
this man was righteous and devout,
looking forward to the consolation of Israel,
and the Holy Spirit rested on him.
26It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit
that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah.
27Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple;
and when the parents brought in the child Jesus,
to do for him what was customary under the law,
28Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,
29"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;
30for my eyes have seen your salvation,
31which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
32a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel."
33And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said
about him.

34Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary,
"This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel,
and to be a sign that will be opposed
35so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—
and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

[36]There was also a prophet,
Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher.
She was of a great age,
having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage,
[37]then as a widow to the age of eighty-four.
She never left the temple
but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day.
[38]At that moment she came, and began to praise God
and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of
Jerusalem.

[39]When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord,
they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.
[40]The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom;
and the favor of God was upon him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

St. Matthias, Apostle

FEBRUARY 24

FIRST READING: Isaiah 66:1–2

A reading from Isaiah:

[1]Thus says the Lord:
Heaven is my throne
and the earth is my footstool;
what is the house that you would build for me,
and what is my resting place?
[2]All these things my hand has made,
and so all these things are mine,
says the Lord.
But this is the one to whom I will look,
to the humble and contrite in spirit,
who trembles at my word.

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 56

SECOND READING: Acts 1:15–26

A reading from Acts:

[15]In those days Peter stood up among the believers
(together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons)
and said,
[16]"Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled,
which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas,
who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus—
[17]for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry."
[18](Now this man acquired a field with the reward of his wickedness;
and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle
and all his bowels gushed out.
[19]This became known to all the residents of Jerusalem,
so that the field was called in their language Hakeldama,
that is, Field of Blood.)

[20]"For it is written in the book of Psalms,
'Let his homestead become desolate,
and let there be no one to live in it';
and
'Let another take his position of overseer.'

[21]"So one of the men who have accompanied us
during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us,
[22]beginning from the baptism of John
until the day when he was taken up from us—
one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection."
[23]So they proposed two,
Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias.
[24]Then they prayed and said,
"Lord, you know everyone's heart.
Show us which one of these two you have chosen
[25]to take the place in this ministry and apostleship
from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place."
[26]And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias;
and he was added to the eleven apostles.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: LUKE 6:12–16

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the sixth chapter.

[12]During those days Jesus went out to the mountain to pray;
and he spent the night in prayer to God.
[13]And when day came, he called his disciples and chose twelve of them,
whom he also named apostles:
[14]Simon, whom he named Peter, and his brother Andrew,
and James, and John, and Philip, and Bartholomew,
[15]and Matthew, and Thomas, and James son of Alphaeus,
and Simon, who was called the Zealot,
[16]and Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

The Gospel of the Lord.

The Annunciation of Our Lord

MARCH 25

FIRST READING: Isaiah 7:10–14

A reading from Isaiah:

10The Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying,
11Ask a sign of the Lord your God;
let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.
12But Ahaz said, I will not ask,
and I will not put the Lord to the test.
13Then Isaiah said:
"Hear then, O house of David!
Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also?
14Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign.
Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son,
and shall name him Immanuel."

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 45 or Psalm 40:5–10* **Psalm 40:5–11* LBW/BCP

SECOND READING: Hebrews 10:4–10

A reading from Hebrews:

4It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.
5Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,
"Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;
6in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.
7Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God'
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."
8When he said above,
"You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices
and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings"
(these are offered according to the law),
9then he added, "See, I have come to do your will."

He abolishes the first in order to establish the second.
10And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified
through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 1:26–38

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the first chapter.

26In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God
to a town in Galilee called Nazareth,
27to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David.
The virgin's name was Mary.
28And he came to her and said,
"Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you."
29But she was much perplexed by his words
and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

30The angel said to her,
"Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.
31And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son,
and you will name him Jesus.
32He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High,
and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David.
33He will reign over the house of Jacob forever,
and of his kingdom there will be no end."
34Mary said to the angel,
"How can this be, since I am a virgin?"
35The angel said to her,
"The Holy Spirit will come upon you,
and the power of the Most High will overshadow you;
therefore the child to be born will be holy;
he will be called Son of God.
36And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son;
and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren.
37For nothing will be impossible with God."

38Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord;
let it be with me according to your word."

Then the angel departed from her.

The Gospel of the Lord.

St. Mark, Evangelist

APRIL 25

FIRST READING: Isaiah 52:7–10

A reading from Isaiah:

7How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."
8Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see
the return of the Lord to Zion.
9Break forth together into singing,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the Lord has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.
10The Lord has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 57

SECOND READING: 2 Timothy 4:6–11, 18

A reading from Second Timothy:

Paul writes:
6As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation,
and the time of my departure has come.
7I have fought the good fight,
I have finished the race,
I have kept the faith.
8From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness,
which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day,
and not only to me
but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

9Do your best to come to me soon,
10for Demas, in love with this present world,

has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica;
Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia.
[11]Only Luke is with me.
Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful in my ministry.

[18]The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack
and save me for his heavenly kingdom.
To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: Mark 1:1–15

The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the first chapter.

[1]The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
[2]As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,
"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;
[3]the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,' "
[4]John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness,
proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.
[5]And people from the whole Judean countryside
and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him,
and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.
[6]Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist,
and he ate locusts and wild honey.
[7]He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me;
I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals.
[8]I have baptized you with water;
but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

[9]In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee
and was baptized by John in the Jordan.
[10]And just as he was coming up out of the water,
he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him.
[11]And a voice came from heaven,
"You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

[12]And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness.
[13]He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan;
and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

[14]Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee,
proclaiming the good news of God, [15]and saying,
"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near;
repent, and believe in the good news."

The Gospel of the Lord.

St. Philip and St. James, Apostles

MAY 1

FIRST READING: Isaiah 30:18–21

A reading from Isaiah:

18The Lord waits to be gracious to you;
therefore he will rise up to show mercy to you.
For the Lord is a God of justice;
blessed are all those who wait for him.

19Truly, O people in Zion, inhabitants of Jerusalem,
you shall weep no more.
He will surely be gracious to you at the sound of your cry;
when he hears it, he will answer you.
20Though the Lord may give you the bread of adversity
and the water of affliction,
yet your Teacher will not hide himself any more,
but your eyes shall see your Teacher.
21And when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left,
your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying,
"This is the way; walk in it."

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 44:1–3, 20–26

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 4:1–6

A reading from Second Corinthians:

1Since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry,
we do not lose heart.
2We have renounced the shameful things that one hides;
we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God's word;
but by the open statement of the truth
we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God.
3And even if our gospel is veiled,
it is veiled to those who are perishing.
4In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers,

to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ,
who is the image of God.

5For we do not proclaim ourselves;
we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord
and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake.
6For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness,"
who has shone in our hearts
to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God
in the face of Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: JOHN 14:8–14

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 14th chapter.

8Philip said to Jesus,
"Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied."
9Jesus said to him,
"Have I been with you all this time, Philip,
and you still do not know me?
Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.
How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?
10Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?
The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own;
but the Father who dwells in me does his works.
11Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me;
but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves.

12"Very truly, I tell you,
the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and,
in fact, will do greater works than these,
because I am going to the Father.
13I will do whatever you ask in my name,
so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.
14If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

The Gospel of the Lord.

The Visitation

MAY 31

FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 2:1–10

A reading from First Samuel:

[1]Hannah prayed and said,

"My heart exults in the Lord;
my strength is exalted in my God.
My mouth derides my enemies,
because I rejoice in my victory.

[2]"There is no Holy One like the Lord,
no one besides you;
there is no Rock like our God.
[3]Talk no more so very proudly,
let not arrogance come from your mouth;
for the Lord is a God of knowledge,
and by him actions are weighed.
[4]The bows of the mighty are broken,
but the feeble gird on strength.
[5]Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread,
but those who were hungry are fat with spoil.
The barren has borne seven,
but she who has many children is forlorn.
[6]The Lord kills and brings to life;
he brings down to Sheol and raises up.
[7]The Lord makes poor and makes rich;
he brings low, he also exalts.
[8]He raises up the poor from the dust;
he lifts the needy from the ash heap,
to make them sit with princes
and inherit a seat of honor.
For the pillars of the earth are the Lord's,
and on them he has set the world.

[9]"He will guard the feet of his faithful ones,
but the wicked shall be cut off in darkness;
for not by might does one prevail.
[10]The Lord! His adversaries shall be shattered;

the Most High will thunder in heaven.
The LORD will judge the ends of the earth;
he will give strength to his king,
and exalt the power of his anointed."

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: PSALM 113

SECOND READING: ROMANS 12:9–16b

A reading from Romans:

[9]Let love be genuine;
hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good;
[10]love one another with mutual affection;
outdo one another in showing honor.
[11]Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord.
[12]Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.
[13]Contribute to the needs of the saints;
extend hospitality to strangers.

[14]Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.
[15]Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.
[16]Live in harmony with one another;
do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 1:39–57

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the first chapter.

39In those days Mary set out
and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country,
40where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.
41When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb.
And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit
42and exclaimed with a loud cry,
"Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.
43And why has this happened to me,
that the mother of my Lord comes to me?
44For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting,
the child in my womb leaped for joy.
45And blessed is she who believed
that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

46And Mary said,
"My soul magnifies the Lord,
47and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
48for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
49for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
50His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
51He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
52He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
53he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
54He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
55according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

56And Mary remained with her about three months
and then returned to her home.

57Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth,
and she bore a son.

The Gospel of the Lord.

St. Barnabas, Apostle

JUNE 11

FIRST READING: Isaiah 42:5–12

A reading from Isaiah:

5Thus says God, the Lord,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it
and spirit to those who walk in it:
6I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness,
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people,
a light to the nations,
7to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.
8I am the Lord, that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to idols.
9See, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth,
I tell you of them.

10Sing to the Lord a new song,
his praise from the end of the earth!
Let the sea roar and all that fills it,
the coastlands and their inhabitants.
11Let the desert and its towns lift up their voice,
the villages that Kedar inhabits;
let the inhabitants of Sela sing for joy,
let them shout from the tops of the mountains.
12Let them give glory to the Lord,
and declare his praise in the coastlands.

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 112

SECOND READING: Acts 11:19–30; 13:1–3

A reading from Acts:

19Now those who were scattered because of the persecution
that took place over Stephen
traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch,
and they spoke the word to no one except Jews.
20But among them were some men of Cyprus and Cyrene who,
on coming to Antioch, spoke to the Hellenists also,
proclaiming the Lord Jesus.
21The hand of the Lord was with them,
and a great number became believers and turned to the Lord.
22News of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem,
and they sent Barnabas to Antioch.

23When he came and saw the grace of God, he rejoiced,
and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast devotion;
24for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith.
And a great many people were brought to the Lord.
25Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul,
26and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch.
So it was that for an entire year
they met with the church and taught a great many people,
and it was in Antioch that the disciples were first called "Christians."

27At that time prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch.
28One of them named Agabus stood up and predicted by the Spirit
that there would be a severe famine over all the world;
and this took place during the reign of Claudius.
29The disciples determined that according to their ability,
each would send relief to the believers living in Judea;
30this they did, sending it to the elders by Barnabas and Saul.

13:1Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers:
Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger,
Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a member of the court of Herod the ruler, and Saul.
2While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting,
the Holy Spirit said,
"Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."
3Then after fasting and praying
they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

The word of the Lord.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the tenth chapter.

Jesus said to the twelve:
7"As you go, proclaim the good news,
'The kingdom of heaven has come near.'
8Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons.
You received without payment; give without payment.
9Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts,
10no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff;
for laborers deserve their food.

11"Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy,
and stay there until you leave.
12As you enter the house, greet it.
13If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it;
but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you.
14If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words,
shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town.
15Truly I tell you,
it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah
on the day of judgment
than for that town.

16"See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves;
so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves."

The Gospel of the Lord.

The Nativity of St. John the Baptist

JUNE 24

FIRST READING: Malachi 3:1–4

A reading from Malachi:

[1]See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me,
and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple.
The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—
indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts.
[2]But who can endure the day of his coming,
and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap;
[3]he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver,
and he will purify the descendants of Levi
and refine them like gold and silver,
until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness.
[4]Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord
as in the days of old and as in former years.

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 141

SECOND READING: Acts 13:13–26

A reading from Acts:

[13]Paul and his companions set sail from Paphos
and came to Perga in Pamphylia.
John, however, left them and returned to Jerusalem;
[14]but they went on from Perga and came to Antioch in Pisidia.
And on the sabbath day they went into the synagogue and sat down.
[15]After the reading of the law and the prophets,
the officials of the synagogue sent them a message, saying,
"Brothers, if you have any word of exhortation for the people, give it."

[16]So Paul stood up and with a gesture began to speak:
"You Israelites, and others who fear God, listen.

17The God of this people Israel chose our ancestors
and made the people great during their stay in the land of Egypt,
and with uplifted arm he led them out of it.
18For about forty years he put up with them in the wilderness.
19After he had destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan,
he gave them their land as an inheritance
20for about four hundred fifty years.
After that he gave them judges until the time of the prophet Samuel.
21Then they asked for a king;
and God gave them Saul son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin,
who reigned for forty years.
22When he had removed him, he made David their king.
In his testimony about him he said,
'I have found David, son of Jesse, to be a man after my heart,
who will carry out all my wishes.'
23Of this man's posterity God has brought to Israel a Savior,
Jesus, as he promised;
24before his coming John had already proclaimed a baptism of repentance
to all the people of Israel.
25And as John was finishing his work, he said,
'What do you suppose that I am? I am not he.
No, but one is coming after me;
I am not worthy to untie the thong of the sandals on his feet.'

26"My brothers, you descendants of Abraham's family,
and others who fear God,
to us the message of this salvation has been sent."

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 1:57–67 [68–80]

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the first chapter.

57Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son.
58Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy
to her,
and they rejoiced with her.

59On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child,
and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father.
60But his mother said, "No; he is to be called John."
61They said to her, "None of your relatives has this name."
62Then they began motioning to his father
to find out what name he wanted to give him.
63He asked for a writing tablet and wrote,
"His name is John."
And all of them were amazed.

64Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed,
and he began to speak, praising God.
65Fear came over all their neighbors,
and all these things were talked about
throughout the entire hill country of Judea.
66All who heard them pondered them and said,
"What then will this child become?"
For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.

67Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit
and spoke this prophecy:
[68"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.
69He has raised up a mighty savior for us
in the house of his servant David,
70as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,
71that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all
who hate us.
72Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors,
and has remembered his holy covenant,
73the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham,
to grant us 74that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies,
might serve him without fear, 75in holiness and righteousness
before him all our days.

76"And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,
77to give knowledge of salvation to his people
by the forgiveness of their sins.
78By the tender mercy of our God,
the dawn from on high will break upon us,
79to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace."

80The child grew and became strong in spirit,
and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.]

The Gospel of the Lord.

St. Peter and St. Paul, Apostles

JUNE 29

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 34:11–16

A reading from Ezekiel:

11Thus says the Lord God:
I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out.
12As shepherds seek out their flocks
when they are among their scattered sheep,
so I will seek out my sheep.
I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered
on a day of clouds and thick darkness.
13I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries,
and will bring them into their own land;
and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel,
by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land.
14I will feed them with good pasture,
and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture;
there they shall lie down in good grazing land,
and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel.
15I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep,
and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God.
16I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed,
and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak,
but the fat and the strong I will destroy.
I will feed them with justice.

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 87:1–3, 5–7 *Psalm 87:1–2, 4–6* LBW/BCP

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 3:16–23

A reading from First Corinthians:

16 Do you not know that you are God's temple
and that God's Spirit dwells in you?
17 If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person.
For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

18 Do not deceive yourselves.
If you think that you are wise in this age,
you should become fools so that you may become wise.
19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God.
For it is written,
"He catches the wise in their craftiness,"
20 and again,
"The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise,
that they are futile."
21 So let no one boast about human leaders.
For all things are yours,
22 whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas
or the world or life or death or the present or the future—
all belong to you,
23 and you belong to Christ,
and Christ belongs to God.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: Mark 8:27–35

The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the eighth chapter.

[27]Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi;
and on the way he asked his disciples,
"Who do people say that I am?"
[28]And they answered him,
"John the Baptist; and others, Elijah;
and still others, one of the prophets."
[29]He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?"
Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah."
[30]And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

[31]Then he began to teach them
that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering,
and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes,
and be killed, and after three days rise again.
[32]He said all this quite openly.
And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.
[33]But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said,
"Get behind me, Satan!
For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

[34]He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them,
"If any want to become my followers,
let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.
[35]For those who want to save their life will lose it,
and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel,
will save it."

The Gospel of the Lord.

St. Mary Magdalene

JULY 22

FIRST READING: Ruth 1:6–18

Or Exodus 2:1–10, following

A reading from Ruth:

6 Naomi started to return with her daughters-in-law Orpah and Ruth
from the country of Moab,
for she had heard in the country of Moab
that the Lord had considered his people
and given them food.
7 So she set out from the place where she had been living,
she and her two daughters-in-law,
and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah.
8 But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law,
"Go back each of you to your mother's house.
May the Lord deal kindly with you,
as you have dealt with the dead and with me.
9 The Lord grant that you may find security,
each of you in the house of your husband."
Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud.

10 They said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people."
11 But Naomi said,
"Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me?
Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands?
12 Turn back, my daughters, go your way,
for I am too old to have a husband.
Even if I thought there was hope for me,
even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons,
13 would you then wait until they were grown?
Would you then refrain from marrying?
No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you,
because the hand of the Lord has turned against me."

14 Then they wept aloud again.
Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

15So she said,
"See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods;
return after your sister-in-law."
16But Ruth said,
"Do not press me to leave you
or to turn back from following you!
Where you go, I will go;
where you lodge, I will lodge;
your people shall be my people,
and your God my God.
17Where you die, I will die—
there will I be buried.
May the LORD do thus and so to me,
and more as well,
if even death parts me from you!"
18When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her,
she said no more to her.

The word of the Lord.

OR: EXODUS 2:1–10

A reading from Exodus:

1Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman.
2The woman conceived and bore a son;
and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months.
3When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him,
and plastered it with bitumen and pitch;
she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river.
4His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

5The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river,
while her attendants walked beside the river.
She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it.
6When she opened it, she saw the child.
He was crying, and she took pity on him.
"This must be one of the Hebrews' children," she said.
7Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter,
"Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women
to nurse the child for you?"
8Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Yes."
So the girl went and called the child's mother.
9Pharaoh's daughter said to her,
"Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages."
So the woman took the child and nursed it.

[10]When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter,
and she took him as her son.
She named him Moses, "because," she said,
"I drew him out of the water."

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: PSALM 73:23–28 *Psalm 73:23–29* LBW/BCP

SECOND READING: ACTS 13:26–33a

A reading from Acts:

[26]"My brothers, you descendants of Abraham's family,
and others who fear God,
to us the message of this salvation has been sent.
[27]Because the residents of Jerusalem and their leaders did not recognize him
or understand the words of the prophets that are read every sabbath,
they fulfilled those words by condemning him.
[28]Even though they found no cause for a sentence of death,
they asked Pilate to have him killed.
[29]When they had carried out everything that was written about him,
they took him down from the tree and laid him in a tomb.

[30]"But God raised him from the dead;
[31]and for many days he appeared to those who came up with him
from Galilee to Jerusalem,
and they are now his witnesses to the people.
[32]And we bring you the good news that what God promised to our ancestors
[33]he has fulfilled for us, their children, by raising Jesus."

The word of the Lord.

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 20th chapter.

[1]Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark,
Mary Magdalene came to the tomb
and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb.
[2]So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple,
the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them,
"They have taken the Lord out of the tomb,
and we do not know where they have laid him."

[11]Mary stood weeping outside the tomb.
As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb;
[12]and she saw two angels in white,
sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying,
one at the head and the other at the feet.
[13]They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?"
She said to them,
"They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him."
[14]When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there,
but she did not know that it was Jesus.
[15]Jesus said to her,
"Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?"
Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him,
"Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him,
and I will take him away."

[16]Jesus said to her, "Mary!"
She turned and said to him in Hebrew,
"Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher).
[17]Jesus said to her,
"Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father.
But go to my brothers and say to them,
'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.' "
[18]Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples,
"I have seen the Lord";
and she told them that he had said these things to her.

The Gospel of the Lord.

St. James the Elder, Apostle

JULY 25

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 19:9–18

A reading from First Kings:

9At Horeb, the mount of God,
Elijah came to a cave, and spent the night there.
Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying,
"What are you doing here, Elijah?"
10He answered, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts;
for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars,
and killed your prophets with the sword.
I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away."
11He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord,
for the Lord is about to pass by."

Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains
and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord,
but the Lord was not in the wind;
and after the wind an earthquake,
but the Lord was not in the earthquake;
12and after the earthquake a fire,
but the Lord was not in the fire;
and after the fire a sound of sheer silence.
13When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle
and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

Then there came a voice to him that said,
"What are you doing here, Elijah?"
14He answered,
"I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts;
for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars,
and killed your prophets with the sword.
I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away."
15Then the Lord said to him,
"Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus;
when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram.
16Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel;
and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah
as prophet in your place.

17Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill;
and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill.
18Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel,
all the knees that have not bowed to Baal,
and every mouth that has not kissed him."

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: PSALM 7:1–10 *Psalm 7:1–11* LBW/BCP

SECOND READING: ACTS 11:27—12:3a

A reading from Acts:

27At that time when Barnabas and Saul were in Antioch,
prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch.
28One of them named Agabus stood up and predicted by the Spirit
that there would be a severe famine over all the world;
and this took place during the reign of Claudius.
29The disciples determined that according to their ability,
each would send relief to the believers living in Judea;
this they did, sending it to the elders by Barnabas and Saul.

12:1About that time
King Herod laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the church.
2He had James, the brother of John, killed with the sword.
3After he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: Mark 10:35–45

The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the tenth chapter.

35James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to Jesus and said to him,
"Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you."
36And he said to them, "What is it you want me to do for you?"
37And they said to him,
"Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory."
38But Jesus said to them,
"You do not know what you are asking.
Are you able to drink the cup that I drink,
or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?"
39They replied, "We are able."
Then Jesus said to them,
"The cup that I drink you will drink;
and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized;
40but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant,
but it is for those for whom it has been prepared."

41When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John.
42So Jesus called them and said to them,
"You know that among the Gentiles
those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them,
and their great ones are tyrants over them.
43But it is not so among you;
but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant,
44and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all.
45For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve,
and to give his life a ransom for many."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Mary, Mother of Our Lord

AUGUST 15

FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:7–11

A reading from Isaiah:

7Because their shame was double,
and dishonor was proclaimed as their lot,
therefore they shall possess a double portion;
everlasting joy shall be theirs.

8For I the Lord love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
9Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.
10I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
11For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 45:10–15 *Psalm 45:11–16* LBW/BCP

SECOND READING: Galatians 4:4–7

A reading from Galatians:

4When the fullness of time had come,
God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law,
5in order to redeem those who were under the law,

so that we might receive adoption as children.
6And because you are children,
God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts,
crying, "Abba! Father!"
7So you are no longer a slave but a child,
and if a child then also an heir, through God.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 1:46–55

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the first chapter.

46Mary said,
"My soul magnifies the Lord,
47and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
48for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
49for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
50His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
51He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
52He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
53he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
54He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
55according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

The Gospel of the Lord.

St. Bartholomew, Apostle

AUGUST 24

FIRST READING: Exodus 19:1–6

A reading from Exodus:

1On the third new moon after the Israelites had gone out of the land of Egypt,
on that very day, they came into the wilderness of Sinai.
2They had journeyed from Rephidim, entered the wilderness of Sinai,
and camped in the wilderness;
Israel camped there in front of the mountain.
3Then Moses went up to God;
the Lord called to him from the mountain, saying,
"Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the Israelites:
4You have seen what I did to the Egyptians,
and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself.
5Now therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant,
you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples.
Indeed, the whole earth is mine,
6but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation.
These are the words that you shall speak to the Israelites."

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 12

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 12:27–31a

A reading from First Corinthians:

27Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.
28And God has appointed in the church first apostles,
second prophets, third teachers;
then deeds of power, then gifts of healing,
forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues.
29Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers?
Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing?
30Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret?
31But strive for the greater gifts.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: John 1:43–51

The Holy Gospel according to John, the first chapter.

43The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee.
He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me."
44Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.
45Philip found Nathanael and said to him,
"We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets
wrote,
Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth."
46Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?"
Philip said to him, "Come and see."

47When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him,
"Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!"
48Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?"
Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you."
49Nathanael replied,
"Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!"
50Jesus answered,
"Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree?
You will see greater things than these."
51And he said to him,
"Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened
and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Holy Cross Day

SEPTEMBER 14

FIRST READING: Numbers 21:4b–9

A reading from Numbers:

From Mount Hor the Israelites set out,
4b but the people became impatient on the way.
5 The people spoke against God and against Moses,
"Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness?
For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food."
6 Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people,
and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died.

7 The people came to Moses and said,
"We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you;
pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us."
So Moses prayed for the people.
8 And the Lord said to Moses,
"Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole;
and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live."
9 So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole;
and whenever a serpent bit someone,
that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 98:1–4* or Psalm 78:1–2, 34–38 **Psalm 98:1–5* LBW/BCP

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18–24

A reading from First Corinthians:

18 The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing,
but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.
19 For it is written,
"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."
20 Where is the one who is wise?
Where is the scribe?

Where is the debater of this age?
Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

21For since, in the wisdom of God,
the world did not know God through wisdom,
God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation,
to save those who believe.
22For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom,
23but we proclaim Christ crucified,
a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles,
24but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks,
Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: John 3:13–17

The Holy Gospel according to John, the third chapter.

Jesus said:
13"No one has ascended into heaven
except the one who descended from heaven,
the Son of Man.
14And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness,
so must the Son of Man be lifted up,
15that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

16"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish
but may have eternal life.
17Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world,
but in order that the world might be saved through him."

The Gospel of the Lord.

St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

SEPTEMBER 21

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 2:8—3:11

A reading from Ezekiel:

8You, mortal, hear what I say to you;
do not be rebellious like that rebellious house;
open your mouth and eat what I give you.
9I looked, and a hand was stretched out to me,
and a written scroll was in it.
10He spread it before me;
it had writing on the front and on the back,
and written on it were words of lamentation and mourning and woe.

3:1He said to me, O mortal, eat what is offered to you;
eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel.
2So I opened my mouth, and he gave me the scroll to eat.
3He said to me, Mortal, eat this scroll that I give you
and fill your stomach with it.
Then I ate it; and in my mouth it was as sweet as honey.

4He said to me: Mortal, go to the house of Israel
and speak my very words to them.
5For you are not sent to a people of obscure speech and difficult language,
but to the house of Israel—
6not to many peoples of obscure speech and difficult language,
whose words you cannot understand.
Surely, if I sent you to them, they would listen to you.
7But the house of Israel will not listen to you,
for they are not willing to listen to me;
because all the house of Israel have a hard forehead and a stubborn heart.
8See, I have made your face hard against their faces,
and your forehead hard against their foreheads.
9Like the hardest stone, harder than flint, I have made your forehead;
do not fear them or be dismayed at their looks,
for they are a rebellious house.
10He said to me: Mortal, all my words that I shall speak to you
receive in your heart and hear with your ears;
11then go to the exiles, to your people, and speak to them.

Say to them, "Thus says the Lord GOD";
whether they hear or refuse to hear.

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: PSALM 119:33–40

SECOND READING: EPHESIANS 2:4–10

A reading from Ephesians:

4God, who is rich in mercy,
out of the great love with which he loved us
5even when we were dead through our trespasses,
made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—
6and raised us up with him
and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,
7so that in the ages to come
he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace
in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.
8For by grace you have been saved through faith,
and this is not your own doing;
it is the gift of God—
9not the result of works, so that no one may boast.
10For we are what he has made us,
created in Christ Jesus for good works,
which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

The word of the Lord.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the ninth chapter.

9As Jesus was walking along,
he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth;
and he said to him, "Follow me."
And he got up and followed him.

10And as he sat at dinner in the house,
many tax collectors and sinners came
and were sitting with him and his disciples.
11When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples,
"Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"
12But when he heard this, he said,
"Those who are well have no need of a physician,
but those who are sick.
13Go and learn what this means,
'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.'
For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners."

The Gospel of the Lord.

St. Michael and All Angels

SEPTEMBER 29

FIRST READING: Daniel 10:10–14; 12:1–3

A reading from Daniel:

10A hand touched me and roused me to my hands and knees.
11He said to me, "Daniel, greatly beloved,
pay attention to the words that I am going to speak to you.
Stand on your feet, for I have now been sent to you."
So while he was speaking this word to me, I stood up trembling.
12He said to me, "Do not fear, Daniel,
for from the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding
and to humble yourself before your God,
your words have been heard, and I have come because of your words.
13But the prince of the kingdom of Persia opposed me twenty-one days.
So Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me,
and I left him there with the prince of the kingdom of Persia,
14and have come to help you understand what is to happen to your people
at the end of days.
For there is a further vision for those days.

12:1"At that time Michael, the great prince,
the protector of your people, shall arise.
There shall be a time of anguish,
such as has never occurred since nations first came into existence.
But at that time your people shall be delivered,
everyone who is found written in the book.
2Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake,
some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.
3Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky,
and those who lead many to righteousness,
like the stars forever and ever."

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 103:1–5, 20–22

SECOND READING: Revelation 12:7–12

A reading from Revelation:

7War broke out in heaven;
Michael and his angels fought against the dragon.
The dragon and his angels fought back,
8but they were defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven.
9The great dragon was thrown down,
that ancient serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan,
the deceiver of the whole world—
he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

10Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, proclaiming,
"Now have come the salvation and the power
and the kingdom of our God
and the authority of his Messiah,
for the accuser of our comrades has been thrown down,
who accuses them day and night before our God.
11But they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb
and by the word of their testimony,
for they did not cling to life even in the face of death.
12Rejoice then, you heavens
and those who dwell in them!
But woe to the earth and the sea,
for the devil has come down to you
with great wrath,
because he knows that his time is short!"

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 10:17–20

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the tenth chapter.

17The seventy returned with joy, saying,
"Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!"
18He said to them,
"I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning.
19See, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions,
and over all the power of the enemy;
and nothing will hurt you.
20Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this,
that the spirits submit to you,
but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

The Gospel of the Lord.

St. Luke, Evangelist

OCTOBER 18

FIRST READING: Isaiah 43:8–13

Or Isaiah 35:5–8, following

A reading from Isaiah:

8 Bring forth the people who are blind, yet have eyes,
who are deaf, yet have ears!
9 Let all the nations gather together,
and let the peoples assemble.
Who among them declared this,
and foretold to us the former things?
Let them bring their witnesses to justify them,
and let them hear and say, "It is true."
10 You are my witnesses, says the Lord,
and my servant whom I have chosen,
so that you may know and believe me
and understand that I am he.
Before me no god was formed,
nor shall there be any after me.
11 I, I am the Lord,
and besides me there is no savior.
12 I declared and saved and proclaimed,
when there was no strange god among you;
and you are my witnesses, says the Lord.
13 I am God, and also henceforth I am He;
there is no one who can deliver from my hand;
I work and who can hinder it?

The word of the Lord.

OR: Isaiah 35:5–8

A reading from Isaiah:

5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
6 then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
7the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

8A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people;
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 124

SECOND READING: 2 Timothy 4:5–11

A reading from Second Timothy:

5As for you, always be sober, endure suffering,
do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

6As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation,
and the time of my departure has come.
7I have fought the good fight,
I have finished the race,
I have kept the faith.
8From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness,
which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day,
and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

9Do your best to come to me soon,
10for Demas, in love with this present world,
has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica;
Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia.
11Only Luke is with me.
Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful in my ministry.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 1:1–4; 24:44–53

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the first and twenty-fourth chapters.

Luke writes:
[1]Since many have undertaken to set down an orderly account
of the events that have been fulfilled among us,
[2]just as they were handed on to us
by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word,
[3]I too decided, after investigating everything carefully from the very first,
to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus,
[4]so that you may know the truth concerning the things
about which you have been instructed.

[24:44]Before he ascended, Jesus said to the disciples and their companions:
"These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—
that everything written about me in the law of Moses,
the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled."
[45]Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures,
[46]and he said to them, "Thus it is written,
that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day,
[47]and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name
to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.
[48]You are witnesses of these things.
[49]And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised;
so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

[50]Then he led them out as far as Bethany,
and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them.
[51]While he was blessing them,
he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven.
[52]And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy;
[53]and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

The Gospel of the Lord.

St. Simon and St. Jude, Apostles

OCTOBER 28

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 26:[1–6] 7–16

A reading from Jeremiah:

[1At the beginning of the reign of King Jehoiakim son of Josiah of Judah,
this word came from the Lord:
2Thus says the Lord:
Stand in the court of the Lord's house,
and speak to all the cities of Judah that come to worship in the house
of the Lord;
speak to them all the words that I command you;
do not hold back a word.
3It may be that they will listen, all of them,
and will turn from their evil way,
that I may change my mind about the disaster
that I intend to bring on them because of their evil doings.
4You shall say to them:
Thus says the Lord: If you will not listen to me,
to walk in my law that I have set before you,
5and to heed the words of my servants the prophets
whom I send to you urgently—
though you have not heeded—
6then I will make this house like Shiloh,
and I will make this city a curse for all the nations of the earth.]

7The priests and the prophets and all the people
heard Jeremiah speaking these words in the house of the Lord.
8And when Jeremiah had finished speaking
all that the Lord had commanded him to speak to all the people,
then the priests and the prophets and all the people laid hold of him,
saying, "You shall die!
9Why have you prophesied in the name of the Lord, saying,
'This house shall be like Shiloh,
and this city shall be desolate, without inhabitant'?"
And all the people gathered around Jeremiah in the house of the Lord.

10When the officials of Judah heard these things,
they came up from the king's house to the house of the Lord
and took their seat in the entry of the New Gate of the house of the Lord.

[11]Then the priests and the prophets said to the officials and to all the people,
"This man deserves the sentence of death
because he has prophesied against this city,
as you have heard with your own ears."

[12]Then Jeremiah spoke to all the officials and all the people, saying,
"It is the LORD who sent me to prophesy
against this house and this city all the words you have heard.
[13]Now therefore amend your ways and your doings,
and obey the voice of the LORD your God,
and the LORD will change his mind about the disaster
that he has pronounced against you.
[14]But as for me, here I am in your hands.
Do with me as seems good and right to you.
[15]Only know for certain that if you put me to death,
you will be bringing innocent blood upon yourselves
and upon this city and its inhabitants,
for in truth the LORD sent me to you to speak all these words in your ears."

[16]Then the officials and all the people said to the priests and the prophets,
"This man does not deserve the sentence of death,
for he has spoken to us in the name of the LORD our God."

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: PSALM 11

SECOND READING: 1 JOHN 4:1–6

A reading from First John:

[1]Beloved, do not believe every spirit,
but test the spirits to see whether they are from God;
for many false prophets have gone out into the world.
[2]By this you know the Spirit of God:
every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God,
[3]and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God.
And this is the spirit of the antichrist,
of which you have heard that it is coming;
and now it is already in the world.

[4]Little children, you are from God, and have conquered them;
for the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.
[5]They are from the world;
therefore what they say is from the world, and the world listens to them.

6We are from God.
Whoever knows God listens to us,
and whoever is not from God does not listen to us.
From this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: John 14:21–27

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 14th chapter.

Jesus said to the disciples:
21"They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me;
and those who love me will be loved by my Father,
and I will love them and reveal myself to them."
22Judas (not Iscariot) said to him,
"Lord, how is it that you will reveal yourself to us, and not to the world?"
23Jesus answered him,
"Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them,
and we will come to them and make our home with them.
24Whoever does not love me does not keep my words;
and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

25"I have said these things to you while I am still with you.
26But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name,
will teach you everything,
and remind you of all that I have said to you.
27Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.
I do not give to you as the world gives.
Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Reformation Day

OCTOBER 31

REFORMATION SUNDAY: OCTOBER 26, 1997 OCTOBER 29, 2000 OCTOBER 26, 2003

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31–34

A reading from Jeremiah:

31 The days are surely coming, says the Lord,
when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel
and the house of Judah.
32 It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors
when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—
a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord.

33 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel
after those days, says the Lord:
I will put my law within them,
and I will write it on their hearts;
and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.
34 No longer shall they teach one another,
or say to each other, "Know the Lord,"
for they shall all know me,
from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord;
for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 46

SECOND READING: Romans 3:19–28

A reading from Romans:

19 Now we know that whatever the law says,
it speaks to those who are under the law,
so that every mouth may be silenced,
and the whole world may be held accountable to God.
20 For "no human being will be justified in his sight"
by deeds prescribed by the law,
for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

[21]But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed,
and is attested by the law and the prophets,
[22]the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe.
For there is no distinction,
[23]since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God;
[24]they are now justified by his grace as a gift,
through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,
[25]whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood,
effective through faith.
He did this to show his righteousness,
because in his divine forbearance
he had passed over the sins previously committed;
[26]it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous
and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

[27]Then what becomes of boasting?
It is excluded.
By what law? By that of works?
No, but by the law of faith.
[28]For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works
prescribed by the law.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: John 8:31–36

The Holy Gospel according to John, the eighth chapter.

[31]Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him,
"If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples;
[32]and you will know the truth,
and the truth will make you free."
[33]They answered him,
"We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone.
What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?"

[34]Jesus answered them,
"Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin.
[35]The slave does not have a permanent place in the household;
the son has a place there forever.

[36]"So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

The Gospel of the Lord.

All Saints Day

NOVEMBER 1

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY: NOVEMBER 2, 1997 NOVEMBER 5, 2000 NOVEMBER 2, 2003

FIRST READING: Isaiah 25:6–9 *Alternate Reading: Wisdom of Solomon 3:1–9 (p. 409)*

A reading from Isaiah:

6On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.
7And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the sheet that is spread over all nations;
he will swallow up death forever.
8Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the Lord has spoken.
9It will be said on that day,
Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.
This is the Lord for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 24

SECOND READING: Revelation 21:1–6a

A reading from Revelation:

[1]I saw a new heaven and a new earth;
for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away,
and the sea was no more.
[2]And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem,
coming down out of heaven from God,
prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
[3]And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,
"See, the home of God is among mortals.
He will dwell with them as their God;
they will be his peoples,
and God himself will be with them;
[4]he will wipe every tear from their eyes.
Death will be no more;
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
for the first things have passed away."

[5]And the one who was seated on the throne said,
"See, I am making all things new."
Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true."
[6]Then he said to me, "It is done!
I am the Alpha and the Omega,
the beginning and the end."

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: John 11:32–44

The Holy Gospel according to John, the eleventh chapter.

32When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him,
she knelt at his feet and said to him,
"Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."
33When Jesus saw her weeping,
and the Jews who came with her also weeping,
he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved.
34He said, "Where have you laid him?"
They said to him, "Lord, come and see."
35Jesus began to weep.
36So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!"
37But some of them said,
"Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man
have kept this man from dying?"

38Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb.
It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it.
39Jesus said, "Take away the stone."
Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him,
"Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days."
40Jesus said to her,
"Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?"

41So they took away the stone.
And Jesus looked upward and said,
"Father, I thank you for having heard me.
42I knew that you always hear me,
but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here,
so that they may believe that you sent me."
43When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice,
"Lazarus, come out!"
44The dead man came out,
his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth,
and his face wrapped in a cloth.
Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

The Gospel of the Lord.

New Year's Eve

DECEMBER 31

FIRST READING: Ecclesiastes 3:1–13

A reading from Ecclesiastes:

1For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:
2a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
3a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
4a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
5a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
6a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;
7a time to tear, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
8a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace.

9What gain have the workers from their toil?
10I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with.
11He has made everything suitable for its time;
moreover he has put a sense of past and future into their minds,
yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.
12I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy
and enjoy themselves as long as they live;
13moreover, it is God's gift
that all should eat and drink and take pleasure in all their toil.

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 8

SECOND READING: Revelation 21:1–6a

A reading from Revelation:

1I saw a new heaven and a new earth;
for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away,
and the sea was no more.
2And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem,
coming down out of heaven from God,
prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
3And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,
"See, the home of God is among mortals.
He will dwell with them as their God;
they will be his peoples,
and God himself will be with them;
4he will wipe every tear from their eyes.
Death will be no more;
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
for the first things have passed away."

5And the one who was seated on the throne said,
"See, I am making all things new."
Also he said,
"Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true."
6aThen he said to me,
"It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end."

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:31–46

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 25th chapter.

Jesus said to the disciples:
31"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him,
then he will sit on the throne of his glory.
32All the nations will be gathered before him,
and he will separate people one from another
as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats,
33and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left.

34"Then the king will say to those at his right hand,
'Come, you that are blessed by my Father,
inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world;
35for I was hungry and you gave me food,
I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,
I was a stranger and you welcomed me,
36I was naked and you gave me clothing,
I was sick and you took care of me,

I was in prison and you visited me.'
37Then the righteous will answer him,
'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food,
or thirsty and gave you something to drink?
38And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you,
or naked and gave you clothing?
39And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?'
40And the king will answer them,
'Truly I tell you,
just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family,
you did it to me.'

41"Then he will say to those at his left hand,
'You that are accursed,
depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels;
42for I was hungry and you gave me no food,
I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink,
43I was a stranger and you did not welcome me,
naked and you did not give me clothing,
sick and in prison and you did not visit me.'
44Then they also will answer,
'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty
or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison,
and did not take care of you?'
45Then he will answer them,
'Truly I tell you,
just as you did not do it to one of the least of these,
you did not do it to me.'
46And these will go away into eternal punishment,
but the righteous into eternal life."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Day of Thanksgiving

CANADA: OCTOBER 13, 1997 OCTOBER 9, 2000 OCTOBER 13, 2003

U.S.A.: NOVEMBER 27, 1997 NOVEMBER 23, 2000 NOVEMBER 27, 2003

FIRST READING: Joel 2:21–27

A reading from Joel:

21 Do not fear, O soil;
be glad and rejoice,
for the Lord has done great things!
22 Do not fear, you animals of the field,
for the pastures of the wilderness are green;
the tree bears its fruit,
the fig tree and vine give their full yield.

23 O children of Zion, be glad
and rejoice in the Lord your God;
for he has given the early rain for your vindication,
he has poured down for you abundant rain,
the early and the later rain, as before.
24 The threshing floors shall be full of grain,
the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

25 I will repay you for the years
that the swarming locust has eaten,
the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter,
my great army, which I sent against you.

26 You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied,
and praise the name of the Lord your God,
who has dealt wondrously with you.
And my people shall never again be put to shame.
27 You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel,
and that I, the Lord, am your God and there is no other.
And my people shall never again
be put to shame.

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 126

SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 2:1–7

A reading from First Timothy:

[1]First of all, then,
I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings
be made for everyone,
[2]for kings and all who are in high positions,
so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity.
[3]This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior,
[4]who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.
[5]For
there is one God;
there is also one mediator between God and humankind,
Christ Jesus, himself human,
[6]who gave himself a ransom for all
—this was attested at the right time.
[7]For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle
(I am telling the truth, I am not lying),
a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 6:25–33

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the sixth chapter.

Jesus said,
25"I tell you,
do not worry about your life,
what you will eat or what you will drink,
or about your body, what you will wear.
Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?
26Look at the birds of the air;
they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns,
and yet your heavenly Father feeds them.
Are you not of more value than they?
27And can any of you by worrying
add a single hour to your span of life?
28And why do you worry about clothing?
Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow;
they neither toil nor spin,
29yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory
was not clothed like one of these.
30But if God so clothes the grass of the field,
which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven,
will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith?

31"Therefore do not worry, saying,
'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?'
32For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things;
and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.
33But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness,
and all these things will be given to you as well."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Appendix A

Semi-continuous First Readings and Psalmody

Sunday between May 29 and June 4 inclusive

(if after Trinity Sunday)

PROPER 4

JUNE 1, 1997

FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 3:1–10 [11–20]

A reading from First Samuel:

[1]Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli.
The word of the Lord was rare in those days;
visions were not widespread.
[2]At that time Eli,
whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see,
was lying down in his room;
[3]the lamp of God had not yet gone out,
and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord,
where the ark of God was.
[4]Then the Lord called, "Samuel! Samuel!"
and he said, "Here I am!"
[5]and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me."
But he said, "I did not call; lie down again."
So he went and lay down.

[6]The Lord called again, "Samuel!"
Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said,
"Here I am, for you called me."
But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again."
[7]Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord,
and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him.

[8]The Lord called Samuel again, a third time.
And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me."
Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy.
[9]Therefore Eli said to Samuel,
"Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say,
'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.' "
So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

[10]Now the Lord came and stood there,
calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!"
And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

[11Then the LORD said to Samuel,
"See, I am about to do something in Israel
that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle.
12On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house,
from beginning to end.
13For I have told him that I am about to punish his house forever,
for the iniquity that he knew,
because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them.
14Therefore I swear to the house of Eli
that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever."

15Samuel lay there until morning;
then he opened the doors of the house of the LORD.
Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli.
16But Eli called Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son."
He said, "Here I am."
17Eli said, "What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me.
May God do so to you and more also,
if you hide anything from me of all that he told you."
18So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him.
Then he said, "It is the LORD; let him do what seems good to him."

19As Samuel grew up,
the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground.
20And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba
knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the LORD.]

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: PSALM 139:1–6, 13–18

Readings continue on p. 194

Sunday between June 5 and 11 inclusive
(if after Trinity Sunday)

PROPER 5

JUNE 8, 1997

FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 8:4–11 [12–15] 16–20; [11:14–15]

A reading from First Samuel:

4All the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah,
5and said to him, "You are old and your sons do not follow in your ways;
appoint for us, then, a king to govern us, like other nations."
6But the thing displeased Samuel when they said,
"Give us a king to govern us."
Samuel prayed to the Lord, 7and the Lord said to Samuel,
"Listen to the voice of the people in all that they say to you;
for they have not rejected you,
but they have rejected me from being king over them.
8Just as they have done to me,
from the day I brought them up out of Egypt to this day,
forsaking me and serving other gods,
so also they are doing to you.
9Now then, listen to their voice;
only—you shall solemnly warn them,
and show them the ways of the king who shall reign over them."

10So Samuel reported all the words of the Lord to the people
who were asking him for a king.
11He said,
"These will be the ways of the king who will reign over you:
he will take your sons and appoint them to his chariots and to be his
horsemen,
and to run before his chariots;
[12and he will appoint for himself commanders of thousands and commanders
of fifties,
and some to plow his ground and to reap his harvest,
and to make his implements of war and the equipment of his chariots.
13He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers.
14He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive orchards
and give them to his courtiers.
15He will take one-tenth of your grain and of your vineyards
and give it to his officers and his courtiers.]

16He will take your male and female slaves,
and the best of your cattle and donkeys,
and put them to his work.
17He will take one-tenth of your flocks,
and you shall be his slaves.
18And in that day you will cry out because of your king,
whom you have chosen for yourselves;
but the LORD will not answer you in that day."

19But the people refused to listen to the voice of Samuel;
they said, "No! but we are determined to have a king over us,
20so that we also may be like other nations,
and that our king may govern us and go out before us and fight our battles."

[11:14Samuel said to the people,
"Come, let us go to Gilgal and there renew the kingship."
15So all the people went to Gilgal,
and there they made Saul king before the LORD in Gilgal.
There they sacrificed offerings of well-being before the LORD,
and there Saul and all the Israelites rejoiced greatly.]

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: PSALM 138

Readings continue on p. 197

Sunday between June 12 and 18 inclusive

(if after Trinity Sunday)

PROPER 6

JUNE 15, 1997

FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 15:34—16:13

A reading from First Samuel:

34Samuel went to Ramah;
and Saul went up to his house in Gibeah of Saul.
35Samuel did not see Saul again until the day of his death,
but Samuel grieved over Saul.
And the Lord was sorry that he had made Saul king over Israel.

16:1The Lord said to Samuel,
"How long will you grieve over Saul?
I have rejected him from being king over Israel.
Fill your horn with oil and set out;
I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite,
for I have provided for myself a king among his sons."
2Samuel said, "How can I go?
If Saul hears of it, he will kill me."
And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you, and say,
'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.'
3Invite Jesse to the sacrifice,
and I will show you what you shall do;
and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you."
4Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem.
The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said,
"Do you come peaceably?"
5He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord;
sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice."
And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

6When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought,
"Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord."
7But the Lord said to Samuel,
"Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature,
because I have rejected him;
for the Lord does not see as mortals see;
they look on the outward appearance,

but the LORD looks on the heart."
[8]Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel.
He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one."
[9]Then Jesse made Shammah pass by.
And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one."
[10]Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel,
and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these."
[11]Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?"
And he said,
"There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep."
And Samuel said to Jesse,
"Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here."
[12]He sent and brought him in.
Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome.
The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one."
[13]Then Samuel took the horn of oil,
and anointed him in the presence of his brothers;
and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward.
Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: PSALM 20

Readings continue on p. 200

Sunday between June 19 and 25 inclusive

(if after Trinity Sunday)

PROPER 7

JUNE 22, 1997 *JUNE 25, 2000* *JUNE 22, 2003*

FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 17:[1a, 4–11, 19–23] 32–49

Or 1 Samuel 17:57—18:5, 10–16, following

A reading from First Samuel:

[1Now the Philistines gathered their armies for battle;
4And there came out from the camp of the Philistines
a champion named Goliath, of Gath,
whose height was six cubits and a span.
5He had a helmet of bronze on his head,
and he was armed with a coat of mail;
the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of bronze.
6He had greaves of bronze on his legs
and a javelin of bronze slung between his shoulders.
7The shaft of his spear was like a weaver's beam,
and his spear's head weighed six hundred shekels of iron;
and his shield-bearer went before him.
8He stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel,
"Why have you come out to draw up for battle?
Am I not a Philistine, and are you not servants of Saul?
Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me.
9If he is able to fight with me and kill me,
then we will be your servants;
but if I prevail against him and kill him,
then you shall be our servants and serve us."
10And the Philistine said, "Today I defy the ranks of Israel!
Give me a man, that we may fight together."
11When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine,
they were dismayed and greatly afraid.

19Now Saul, and they, and all the men of Israel, were in the valley of Elah,
fighting with the Philistines.
20David rose early in the morning, left the sheep with a keeper,
took the provisions, and went as Jesse had commanded him.
He came to the encampment as the army was going forth to the battle line,
shouting the war cry.
21Israel and the Philistines drew up for battle, army against army.

22David left the things in charge of the keeper of the baggage,
ran to the ranks, and went and greeted his brothers.
23As he talked with them, the champion, the Philistine of Gath,
Goliath by name,
came up out of the ranks of the Philistines,
and spoke the same words as before.
And David heard him.]

32David said to Saul, "Let no one's heart fail because of him;
your servant will go and fight with this Philistine."
33Saul said to David,
"You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him;
for you are just a boy, and he has been a warrior from his youth."
34But David said to Saul,
"Your servant used to keep sheep for his father;
and whenever a lion or a bear came, and took a lamb from the flock,
35I went after it and struck it down, rescuing the lamb from its mouth;
and if it turned against me, I would catch it by the jaw,
strike it down, and kill it.
36Your servant has killed both lions and bears;
and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them,
since he has defied the armies of the living God."
37David said,
"The LORD, who saved me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the
bear,
will save me from the hand of this Philistine."
So Saul said to David, "Go, and may the LORD be with you!"

38Saul clothed David with his armor;
he put a bronze helmet on his head and clothed him with a coat of mail.
39David strapped Saul's sword over the armor,
and he tried in vain to walk, for he was not used to them.
Then David said to Saul,
"I cannot walk with these; for I am not used to them."
So David removed them.
40Then he took his staff in his hand, and chose five smooth stones
from the wadi,
and put them in his shepherd's bag, in the pouch;
his sling was in his hand, and he drew near to the Philistine.

41The Philistine came on and drew near to David,
with his shield-bearer in front of him.
42When the Philistine looked and saw David, he disdained him,
for he was only a youth, ruddy and handsome in appearance.
43The Philistine said to David,
"Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?"
And the Philistine cursed David by his gods.

44The Philistine said to David,
"Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air
and to the wild animals of the field."
45But David said to the Philistine,
"You come to me with sword and spear and javelin;
but I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts,
the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.
46This very day the LORD will deliver you into my hand,
and I will strike you down and cut off your head;
and I will give the dead bodies of the Philistine army
this very day to the birds of the air and to the wild animals of the earth,
so that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel,
47and that all this assembly may know
that the LORD does not save by sword and spear;
for the battle is the LORD's and he will give you into our hand."

48When the Philistine drew nearer to meet David,
David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine.
49David put his hand in his bag, took out a stone, slung it,
and struck the Philistine on his forehead;
the stone sank into his forehead,
and he fell face down on the ground.

The word of the Lord.

Readings continue on p. 203

OR: 1 SAMUEL 17:57—18:5, 10–16

A reading from First Samuel:

57On David's return from killing the Philistine,
Abner took him and brought him before Saul,
with the head of the Philistine in his hand.
58Saul said to him, "Whose son are you, young man?"
And David answered,
"I am the son of your servant Jesse the Bethlehemite."

18:1When David had finished speaking to Saul,
the soul of Jonathan was bound to the soul of David,
and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.
2Saul took him that day and would not let him return to his father's house.
3Then Jonathan made a covenant with David,
because he loved him as his own soul.
4Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that he was wearing,
and gave it to David,
and his armor, and even his sword and his bow and his belt.

[5]David went out and was successful wherever Saul sent him;
as a result, Saul set him over the army.
And all the people, even the servants of Saul, approved.

[10]The next day an evil spirit from God rushed upon Saul,
and he raved within his house,
while David was playing the lyre, as he did day by day.
Saul had his spear in his hand; [11]and Saul threw the spear,
for he thought, "I will pin David to the wall."
But David eluded him twice.

[12]Saul was afraid of David,
because the LORD was with him but had departed from Saul.
[13]So Saul removed him from his presence,
and made him a commander of a thousand;
and David marched out and came in, leading the army.
[14]David had success in all his undertakings;
for the LORD was with him.
[15]When Saul saw that he had great success, he stood in awe of him.
[16]But all Israel and Judah loved David;
for it was he who marched out and came in leading them.

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: PSALM 9:9–20 or PSALM 133

Readings continue on p. 203

Sunday between June 26 and July 2 inclusive

PROPER 8

JUNE 29, 1997 *JULY 2, 2000* *JUNE 29, 2003*

FIRST READING: 2 Samuel 1:1, 17–27

A reading from Second Samuel:

[1]After the death of Saul,
when David had returned from defeating the Amalekites,
David remained two days in Ziklag.

[17]David intoned this lamentation over Saul and his son Jonathan.
[18](He ordered that The Song of the Bow be taught to the people of Judah;
it is written in the Book of Jashar.)
He said:
[19]Your glory, O Israel, lies slain upon your high places!
How the mighty have fallen!
[20]Tell it not in Gath,
proclaim it not in the streets of Ashkelon;
or the daughters of the Philistines will rejoice,
the daughters of the uncircumcised will exult.

[21]You mountains of Gilboa,
let there be no dew or rain upon you,
nor bounteous fields!
For there the shield of the mighty was defiled,
the shield of Saul, anointed with oil no more.

[22]From the blood of the slain,
from the fat of the mighty,
the bow of Jonathan did not turn back,
nor the sword of Saul return empty.

[23]Saul and Jonathan, beloved and lovely!
In life and in death they were not divided;
they were swifter than eagles,
they were stronger than lions.

[24]O daughters of Israel, weep over Saul,
who clothed you with crimson, in luxury,
who put ornaments of gold on your apparel.

[25]How the mighty have fallen
in the midst of the battle!

Jonathan lies slain upon your high places.
[26]I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan;
greatly beloved were you to me;
your love to me was wonderful,
passing the love of women.

[27]How the mighty have fallen,
and the weapons of war perished!

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: PSALM 130

Readings continue on p. 206

Sunday between July 3 and 9 inclusive

PROPER 9

JULY 6, 1997 *JULY 9, 2000* *JULY 6, 2003*

FIRST READING: 2 Samuel 5:1–5, 9–10

A reading from Second Samuel:

[1]All the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron, and said,
"Look, we are your bone and flesh.
[2]For some time, while Saul was king over us,
it was you who led out Israel and brought it in.
The Lord said to you:
It is you who shall be shepherd of my people Israel,
you who shall be ruler over Israel."
[3]So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron;
and King David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the Lord,
and they anointed David king over Israel.

[4]David was thirty years old when he began to reign,
and he reigned forty years.
[5]At Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months;
and at Jerusalem he reigned over all Israel and Judah thirty-three years.

[9]David occupied the stronghold, and named it the city of David.
David built the city all around from the Millo inward.
[10]And David became greater and greater,
for the Lord, the God of hosts, was with him.

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 48

Readings continue on p. 210

Sunday between July 10 and 16 inclusive

PROPER 10

JULY 13, 1997 *JULY 16, 2000* *JULY 13, 2003*

FIRST READING: 2 Samuel 6:1–5, 12b–19

A reading from Second Samuel:

[1]David again gathered all the chosen men of Israel, thirty thousand.
[2]David and all the people with him set out and went from Baale-judah,
to bring up from there the ark of God,
which is called by the name of the Lord of hosts who is enthroned on the cherubim.
[3]They carried the ark of God on a new cart,
and brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill.
Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab,
were driving the new cart [4]with the ark of God;
and Ahio went in front of the ark.
[5]David and all the house of Israel were dancing before the Lord with all their might,
with songs and lyres and harps and tambourines and castanets and cymbals.

[12b]So David went and brought up the ark of God
from the house of Obed-edom to the city of David with rejoicing;
[13]and when those who bore the ark of the Lord had gone six paces,
he sacrificed an ox and a fatling.
[14]David danced before the Lord with all his might;
David was girded with a linen ephod.
[15]So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the Lord with shouting,
and with the sound of the trumpet.

[16]As the ark of the Lord came into the city of David,
Michal daughter of Saul looked out of the window,
and saw King David leaping and dancing before the Lord;
and she despised him in her heart.

[17]They brought in the ark of the Lord,
and set it in its place, inside the tent that David had pitched for it;
and David offered burnt offerings and offerings of well-being before the Lord.
[18]When David had finished offering the burnt offerings

and the offerings of well-being,
he blessed the people in the name of the LORD of hosts,
19and distributed food among all the people,
the whole multitude of Israel, both men and women,
to each a cake of bread, a portion of meat, and a cake of raisins.
Then all the people went back to their homes.

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: PSALM 24

Readings continue on p. 214

Sunday between July 17 and 23 inclusive

PROPER 11

JULY 20, 1997 *JULY 23, 2000* *JULY 20, 2003*

FIRST READING: 2 Samuel 7:1–14a

A reading from Second Samuel:

1Now when David the king was settled in his house,
and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him,
2the king said to the prophet Nathan,
"See now, I am living in a house of cedar,
but the ark of God stays in a tent."
3Nathan said to the king,
"Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you."

4But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:
5Go and tell my servant David:
Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in?
6I have not lived in a house
since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day,
but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle.
7Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel,
did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel,
whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying,
"Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"

8Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David:
Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture,
from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel;
9and I have been with you wherever you went,
and have cut off all your enemies from before you;
and I will make for you a great name,
like the name of the great ones of the earth.
10And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them,
so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more;
and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly,
11from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel;
and I will give you rest from all your enemies.
Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house.
12When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your ancestors,

I will raise up your offspring after you,
who shall come forth from your body,
and I will establish his kingdom.
13He shall build a house for my name,
and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.
14I will be a father to him,
and he shall be a son to me.

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: PSALM 89:20–37

Readings continue on p. 217

Sunday between July 24 and 30 inclusive

PROPER 12

JULY 27, 1997 *JULY 30, 2000* *JULY 27, 2003*

FIRST READING: 2 Samuel 11:1–15

A reading from Second Samuel:

1In the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle,
David sent Joab with his officers and all Israel with him;
they ravaged the Ammonites, and besieged Rabbah.
But David remained at Jerusalem.

2It happened, late one afternoon,
when David rose from his couch
and was walking about on the roof of the king's house,
that he saw from the roof a woman bathing;
the woman was very beautiful.
3David sent someone to inquire about the woman.
It was reported, "This is Bathsheba daughter of Eliam,
the wife of Uriah the Hittite."
4So David sent messengers to get her,
and she came to him, and he lay with her.
(Now she was purifying herself after her period.)
Then she returned to her house.
5The woman conceived;
and she sent and told David, "I am pregnant."

6So David sent word to Joab,
"Send me Uriah the Hittite."
And Joab sent Uriah to David.
7When Uriah came to him,
David asked how Joab and the people fared,
and how the war was going.
8Then David said to Uriah,
"Go down to your house, and wash your feet."
Uriah went out of the king's house,
and there followed him a present from the king.
9But Uriah slept at the entrance of the king's house with all the servants of his lord,
and did not go down to his house.

10When they told David, "Uriah did not go down to his house,"
David said to Uriah, "You have just come from a journey.
Why did you not go down to your house?"
11Uriah said to David,
"The ark and Israel and Judah remain in booths;
and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are camping in the open field;
shall I then go to my house, to eat and to drink,
and to lie with my wife?
As you live, and as your soul lives, I will not do such a thing."
12Then David said to Uriah,
"Remain here today also, and tomorrow I will send you back."
So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day.
On the next day, 13David invited him to eat and drink in his presence
and made him drunk;
and in the evening he went out to lie on his couch with the servants
of his lord,
but he did not go down to his house.

14In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab,
and sent it by the hand of Uriah.
15In the letter he wrote,
"Set Uriah in the forefront of the hardest fighting,
and then draw back from him,
so that he may be struck down and die."

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: PSALM 14

Readings continue on p. 220

Sunday between July 31 and August 6 inclusive

PROPER 13

AUGUST 3, 1997 *AUGUST 6, 2000* *AUGUST 3, 2003*

FIRST READING: 2 Samuel 11:26—12:13a

A reading from Second Samuel:

26When the wife of Uriah heard that her husband was dead,
she made lamentation for him.
27When the mourning was over,
David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife,
and bore him a son.

But the thing that David had done displeased the Lord,
12:1and the Lord sent Nathan to David.
He came to him, and said to him,
"There were two men in a certain city,
the one rich and the other poor.
2The rich man had very many flocks and herds;
3but the poor man had nothing but one little ewe lamb,
which he had bought.
He brought it up,
and it grew up with him and with his children;
it used to eat of his meager fare, and drink from his cup,
and lie in his bosom,
and it was like a daughter to him.
4Now there came a traveler to the rich man,
and he was loath to take one of his own flock or herd
to prepare for the wayfarer who had come to him,
but he took the poor man's lamb,
and prepared that for the guest who had come to him."

5Then David's anger was greatly kindled against the man.
He said to Nathan,
"As the Lord lives, the man who has done this deserves to die;
6he shall restore the lamb fourfold,
because he did this thing, and because he had no pity."

7Nathan said to David, "You are the man!
Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel:

I anointed you king over Israel,
and I rescued you from the hand of Saul;
[8]I gave you your master's house,
and your master's wives into your bosom,
and gave you the house of Israel and of Judah;
and if that had been too little, I would have added as much more.
[9]Why have you despised the word of the LORD,
to do what is evil in his sight?
You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword,
and have taken his wife to be your wife,
and have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites.
[10]Now therefore the sword shall never depart from your house,
for you have despised me,
and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.
[11]Thus says the LORD:
I will raise up trouble against you from within your own house;
and I will take your wives before your eyes,
and give them to your neighbor,
and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this very sun.
[12]For you did it secretly;
but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun."
[13]David said to Nathan,
"I have sinned against the LORD."

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: PSALM 51:1–12

Readings continue on p. 224

Sunday between August 7 and 13 inclusive

PROPER 14

AUGUST 10, 1997 *AUGUST 13, 2000* *AUGUST 10, 2003*

FIRST READING: 2 Samuel 18:5–9, 15, 31–33

A reading from Second Samuel:

5King David ordered Joab and Abishai and Ittai, saying,
"Deal gently for my sake with the young man Absalom."
And all the people heard
when the king gave orders to all the commanders concerning Absalom.

6So the army went out into the field against Israel;
and the battle was fought in the forest of Ephraim.
7The men of Israel were defeated there by the servants of David,
and the slaughter there was great on that day, twenty thousand men.
8The battle spread over the face of all the country;
and the forest claimed more victims that day than the sword.

9Absalom happened to meet the servants of David.
Absalom was riding on his mule,
and the mule went under the thick branches of a great oak.
His head caught fast in the oak,
and he was left hanging between heaven and earth,
while the mule that was under him went on.
15And ten young men, Joab's armor-bearers,
surrounded Absalom and struck him, and killed him.

31Then the Cushite came; and the Cushite said,
"Good tidings for my lord the king!
For the Lord has vindicated you this day,
delivering you from the power of all who rose up against you."
32The king said to the Cushite,
"Is it well with the young man Absalom?"
The Cushite answered,
"May the enemies of my lord the king,
and all who rise up to do you harm, be like that young man."

33The king was deeply moved,
and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept;

and as he went, he said,
"O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom!
Would I had died instead of you,
O Absalom, my son, my son!"

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: PSALM 130

Readings continue on p. 227

Sunday between August 14 and 20 inclusive

PROPER 15

AUGUST 17, 1997 *AUGUST 20, 2000* *AUGUST 17, 2003*

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 2:10–12; 3:3–14

A reading from First Kings:

10David slept with his ancestors,
and was buried in the city of David.
11The time that David reigned over Israel was forty years;
he reigned seven years in Hebron,
and thirty-three years in Jerusalem.
12So Solomon sat on the throne of his father David;
and his kingdom was firmly established.

3:3Solomon loved the Lord,
walking in the statutes of his father David;
only, he sacrificed and offered incense at the high places.
4The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there,
for that was the principal high place;
Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar.

5At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night;
and God said, "Ask what I should give you."
6And Solomon said,
"You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David,
because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness,
and in uprightness of heart toward you;
and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love,
and have given him a son to sit on his throne today.
7And now, O Lord my God,
you have made your servant king in place of my father David,
although I am only a little child;
I do not know how to go out or come in.
8And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen,
a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted.
9Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people,
able to discern between good and evil;
for who can govern this your great people?"

[10]It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this.
[11]God said to him,
"Because you have asked this,
and have not asked for yourself long life or riches,
or for the life of your enemies,
but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right,
[12]I now do according to your word.
Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind;
no one like you has been before you
and no one like you shall arise after you.
[13]I give you also what you have not asked,
both riches and honor all your life;
no other king shall compare with you.
[14]If you will walk in my ways,
keeping my statutes and my commandments,
as your father David walked,
then I will lengthen your life."

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: PSALM 111

Readings continue on p. 230

Sunday between August 21 and 27 inclusive

PROPER 16

AUGUST 24, 1997 *AUGUST 27, 2000* *AUGUST 24, 2003*

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 8:[1, 6, 10–11] 22–30, 41–43

A reading from First Kings:

[1Solomon assembled the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes,
the leaders of the ancestral houses of the Israelites,
before King Solomon in Jerusalem,
to bring up the ark of the covenant of the Lord out of the city of David,
which is Zion.
6Then the priests brought the ark of the covenant of the Lord to its place,
in the inner sanctuary of the house, in the most holy place,
underneath the wings of the cherubim.
10And when the priests came out of the holy place,
a cloud filled the house of the Lord,
11so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud;
for the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord.]

22Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord
in the presence of all the assembly of Israel,
and spread out his hands to heaven.
23He said, "O Lord, God of Israel,
there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth beneath,
keeping covenant and steadfast love for your servants
who walk before you with all their heart,
24the covenant that you kept for your servant my father David
as you declared to him;
you promised with your mouth
and have this day fulfilled with your hand.
25Therefore, O Lord, God of Israel,
keep for your servant my father David that which you promised him, saying,
'There shall never fail you a successor before me to sit on the throne of Israel,
if only your children look to their way,
to walk before me as you have walked before me.'
26Therefore, O God of Israel, let your word be confirmed,
which you promised to your servant my father David.

27"But will God indeed dwell on the earth?
Even heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you,

much less this house that I have built!
[28]Regard your servant's prayer and his plea, O LORD my God,
heeding the cry and the prayer that your servant prays to you today;
[29]that your eyes may be open night and day toward this house,
the place of which you said, 'My name shall be there,'
that you may heed the prayer that your servant prays toward this place.
[30]Hear the plea of your servant and of your people Israel
when they pray toward this place;
O hear in heaven your dwelling place;
heed and forgive.

[41]"Likewise when a foreigner, who is not of your people Israel,
comes from a distant land because of your name
[42]—for they shall hear of your great name,
your mighty hand, and your outstretched arm—
when a foreigner comes and prays toward this house,
[43]then hear in heaven your dwelling place,
and do according to all that the foreigner calls to you,
so that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you,
as do your people Israel,
and so that they may know
that your name has been invoked on this house that I have built."

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: PSALM 84

Readings continue on p. 233

Sunday between August 28 and September 3 inclusive

PROPER 17

AUGUST 31, 1997 *SEPTEMBER 3, 2000* *AUGUST 31, 2003*

FIRST READING: Song of Solomon 2:8–13

A reading from Song of Solomon:

8The voice of my beloved!
Look, he comes,
leaping upon the mountains,
bounding over the hills.
9My beloved is like a gazelle
or a young stag.
Look, there he stands
behind our wall,
gazing in at the windows,
looking through the lattice.

10My beloved speaks and says to me:
"Arise, my love, my fair one,
and come away;
11for now the winter is past,
the rain is over and gone.
12The flowers appear on the earth;
the time of singing has come,
and the voice of the turtledove
is heard in our land.
13The fig tree puts forth its figs,
and the vines are in blossom;
they give forth fragrance.
Arise, my love, my fair one,
and come away."

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 45:1–2, 6–9

Readings continue on p. 236

Sunday between September 4 and 10 inclusive

PROPER 18

SEPTEMBER 7, 1997 *SEPTEMBER 10, 2000* *SEPTEMBER 7, 2003*

FIRST READING: Proverbs 22:1–2, 8–9, 22–23

A reading from Proverbs:

1 A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches,
and favor is better than silver or gold.
2 The rich and the poor have this in common:
the Lord is the maker of them all.

8 Whoever sows injustice will reap calamity,
and the rod of anger will fail.
9 Those who are generous are blessed,
for they share their bread with the poor.
22 Do not rob the poor because they are poor,
or crush the afflicted at the gate;
23 for the Lord pleads their cause
and despoils of life those who despoil them.

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 125

Readings continue on p. 239

Sunday between September 11 and 17 inclusive

PROPER 19

SEPTEMBER 14, 1997 *SEPTEMBER 17, 2000* *SEPTEMBER 14, 2003*

FIRST READING: Proverbs 1:20–33

A reading from Proverbs:

20 Wisdom cries out in the street;
in the squares she raises her voice.
21 At the busiest corner she cries out;
at the entrance of the city gates she speaks:
22 "How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple?
How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing
and fools hate knowledge?
23 Give heed to my reproof;
I will pour out my thoughts to you;
I will make my words known to you.
24 Because I have called and you refused,
have stretched out my hand and no one heeded,
25 and because you have ignored all my counsel
and would have none of my reproof,
26 I also will laugh at your calamity;
I will mock when panic strikes you,
27 when panic strikes you like a storm,
and your calamity comes like a whirlwind,
when distress and anguish come upon you.

28 "Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer;
they will seek me diligently, but will not find me.
29 Because they hated knowledge
and did not choose the fear of the Lord,
30 would have none of my counsel,
and despised all my reproof,
31 therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way
and be sated with their own devices.
32 For waywardness kills the simple,
and the complacency of fools destroys them;
33 but those who listen to me will be secure
and will live at ease, without dread of disaster."

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 19 or Wisdom of Solomon 7:26—8:1

Readings continue on p. 242

Sunday between September 18 and 24 inclusive

PROPER 20

SEPTEMBER 21, 1997 *SEPTEMBER 24, 2000* *SEPTEMBER 21, 2003*

FIRST READING: Proverbs 31:10–31

A reading from Proverbs:

10 A capable wife who can find?
She is far more precious than jewels.
11 The heart of her husband trusts in her,
and he will have no lack of gain.
12 She does him good, and not harm,
all the days of her life.
13 She seeks wool and flax,
and works with willing hands.
14 She is like the ships of the merchant,
she brings her food from far away.
15 She rises while it is still night
and provides food for her household
and tasks for her servant girls.
16 She considers a field and buys it;
with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard.
17 She girds herself with strength,
and makes her arms strong.
18 She perceives that her merchandise is profitable.
Her lamp does not go out at night.
19 She puts her hands to the distaff,
and her hands hold the spindle.
20 She opens her hand to the poor,
and reaches out her hands to the needy.
21 She is not afraid for her household when it snows,
for all her household are clothed in crimson.
22 She makes herself coverings;
her clothing is fine linen and purple.

23 Her husband is known in the city gates,
taking his seat among the elders of the land.
24 She makes linen garments and sells them;
she supplies the merchant with sashes.
25 Strength and dignity are her clothing,
and she laughs at the time to come.

26She opens her mouth with wisdom,
and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.
27She looks well to the ways of her household,
and does not eat the bread of idleness.
28Her children rise up and call her happy;
her husband too, and he praises her:
29"Many women have done excellently,
but you surpass them all."
30Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain,
but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.
31Give her a share in the fruit of her hands,
and let her works praise her in the city gates.

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: PSALM 1

Readings continue on p. 245

Sunday between September 25 and October 1 inclusive

PROPER 21

SEPTEMBER 28, 1997 *OCTOBER 1, 2000* *SEPTEMBER 28, 2003*

FIRST READING: Esther 7:1–6, 9–10; 9:20–22

A reading from Esther:

1King Ahasuerus and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther.
2On the second day, as they were drinking wine,
the king again said to Esther,
"What is your petition, Queen Esther?
It shall be granted you.
And what is your request?
Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled."
3Then Queen Esther answered,
"If I have won your favor, O king, and if it pleases the king,
let my life be given me—that is my petition—
and the lives of my people—that is my request.
4For we have been sold, I and my people,
to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated.
If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women,
I would have held my peace;
but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the king."

5Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther,
"Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?"
6Esther said, "A foe and enemy, this wicked Haman!"
Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen.
9Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said,
"Look, the very gallows that Haman has prepared for Mordecai,
whose word saved the king,
stands at Haman's house, fifty cubits high."
And the king said, "Hang him on that."
10So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai.
Then the anger of the king abated.

9:20Mordecai recorded these things,
and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces
of King Ahasuerus,
both near and far,

[21]enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar
and also the fifteenth day of the same month, year by year,
[22]as the days on which the Jews gained relief from their enemies,
and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness
and from mourning into a holiday;
that they should make them days of feasting and gladness,
days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor.

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: PSALM 124

Readings continue on p. 249

Sunday between October 2 and 8 inclusive

PROPER 22

OCTOBER 5, 1997 *OCTOBER 8, 2000* *OCTOBER 5, 2003*

FIRST READING: Job 1:1; 2:1–10

A reading from Job:

1 There was once a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job.
That man was blameless and upright,
one who feared God and turned away from evil.

2:1 One day the heavenly beings came to present themselves before the Lord,
and Satan also came among them to present himself before the Lord.
2 The Lord said to Satan, "Where have you come from?"
Satan answered the Lord,
"From going to and fro on the earth,
and from walking up and down on it."
3 The Lord said to Satan,
"Have you considered my servant Job?
There is no one like him on the earth,
a blameless and upright man who fears God and turns away from evil.
He still persists in his integrity,
although you incited me against him, to destroy him for no reason."
4 Then Satan answered the Lord, "Skin for skin!
All that people have they will give to save their lives.
5 But stretch out your hand now and touch his bone and his flesh,
and he will curse you to your face."
6 The Lord said to Satan,
"Very well, he is in your power; only spare his life."

7 So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord,
and inflicted loathsome sores on Job
from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head.
8 Job took a potsherd with which to scrape himself,
and sat among the ashes.
9 Then his wife said to him,
"Do you still persist in your integrity?
Curse God, and die."

10But he said to her,
"You speak as any foolish woman would speak.
Shall we receive the good at the hand of God, and not receive the bad?"
In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: PSALM 26

Readings continue on p. 252

Sunday between October 9 and 15 inclusive

PROPER 23

OCTOBER 12, 1997 *OCTOBER 15, 2000* *OCTOBER 12, 2003*

FIRST READING: Job 23:1–9, 16–17

A reading from Job:

1 Job answered:
2 "Today also my complaint is bitter;
his hand is heavy despite my groaning.
3 Oh, that I knew where I might find him,
that I might come even to his dwelling!
4 I would lay my case before him,
and fill my mouth with arguments.
5 I would learn what he would answer me,
and understand what he would say to me.
6 Would he contend with me in the greatness of his power?
No; but he would give heed to me.
7 There an upright person could reason with him,
and I should be acquitted forever by my judge.

8 "If I go forward, he is not there;
or backward, I cannot perceive him;
9 on the left he hides, and I cannot behold him;
I turn to the right, but I cannot see him.
16 God has made my heart faint;
the Almighty has terrified me;
17 If only I could vanish in darkness,
and thick darkness would cover my face!"

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 22:1–15

Readings continue on p. 255

Sunday between October 16 and 22 inclusive

PROPER 24

OCTOBER 19, 1997 OCTOBER 22, 2000 OCTOBER 19, 2003

FIRST READING: Job 38:1–7 [34–41]

A reading from Job:

[1]The Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind:
[2]"Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?
[3]Gird up your loins like a man,
I will question you, and you shall declare to me.

[4]"Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?
Tell me, if you have understanding.
[5]Who determined its measurements—surely you know!
Or who stretched the line upon it?
[6]On what were its bases sunk,
or who laid its cornerstone
[7]when the morning stars sang together
and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy?

[[34]"Can you lift up your voice to the clouds,
so that a flood of waters may cover you?
[35]Can you send forth lightnings, so that they may go
and say to you, 'Here we are'?
[36]Who has put wisdom in the inward parts,
or given understanding to the mind?
[37]Who has the wisdom to number the clouds?
Or who can tilt the waterskins of the heavens,
[38]when the dust runs into a mass
and the clods cling together?
[39]Can you hunt the prey for the lion,
or satisfy the appetite of the young lions,
[40]when they crouch in their dens,
or lie in wait in their covert?
[41]Who provides for the raven its prey,
when its young ones cry to God,
and wander about for lack of food?"]

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 104:1–9, 24, 35c

Readings continue on p. 259

Sunday between October 23 and 29 inclusive

PROPER 25

OCTOBER 26, 1997 *OCTOBER 29, 2000* *OCTOBER 26, 2003*

FIRST READING: Job 42:1–6, 10–17

A reading from Job:

1 Job answered the Lord:
2 "I know that you can do all things,
and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.
3 'Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?'
Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand,
things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.
4 'Hear, and I will speak;
I will question you, and you declare to me.'
5 I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear,
but now my eye sees you;
6 therefore I despise myself,
and repent in dust and ashes."

10 And the Lord restored the fortunes of Job when he had prayed for his friends;
and the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before.
11 Then there came to him all his brothers and sisters
and all who had known him before,
and they ate bread with him in his house;
they showed him sympathy
and comforted him for all the evil that the Lord had brought upon him;
and each of them gave him a piece of money and a gold ring.

12 The Lord blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning;
and he had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels,
a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand donkeys.
13 He also had seven sons and three daughters.
14 He named the first Jemimah, the second Keziah, and the third
Keren-happuch.
15 In all the land there were no women so beautiful as Job's daughters;
and their father gave them an inheritance along with their brothers.
16 After this Job lived one hundred and forty years,

and saw his children, and his children's children, four generations.
[17]And Job died, old and full of days.

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: PSALM 34:1–8 [19–22]

Readings continue on p. 262

Sunday between October 30 and November 5 inclusive

PROPER 26

NOVEMBER 2, 1997 *NOVEMBER 5, 2000* *NOVEMBER 2, 2003*

FIRST READING: Ruth 1:1–18

A reading from Ruth:

[1]In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land,
and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab,
he and his wife and two sons.
[2]The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi,
and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion;
they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah.
They went into the country of Moab and remained there.
[3]But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died,
and she was left with her two sons.
[4]These took Moabite wives;
the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth.
When they had lived there about ten years,
[5]both Mahlon and Chilion also died,
so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

[6]Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country
of Moab,
for she had heard in the country of Moab
that the Lord had considered his people and given them food.
[7]So she set out from the place where she had been living,
she and her two daughters-in-law,
and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah.
[8]But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law,
"Go back each of you to your mother's house.
May the Lord deal kindly with you,
as you have dealt with the dead and with me.
[9]The Lord grant that you may find security,
each of you in the house of your husband."
Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud.
[10]They said to her,
"No, we will return with you to your people."
[11]But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me?
Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands?

12Turn back, my daughters, go your way,
for I am too old to have a husband.
Even if I thought there was hope for me,
even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons,
13would you then wait until they were grown?
Would you then refrain from marrying?
No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you,
because the hand of the LORD has turned against me."
14Then they wept aloud again.
Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

15So she said,
"See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods;
return after your sister-in-law."
16But Ruth said,
"Do not press me to leave you
or to turn back from following you!
Where you go, I will go;
where you lodge, I will lodge;
your people shall be my people,
and your God my God.
17Where you die, I will die—
there will I be buried.
May the LORD do thus and so to me,
and more as well,
if even death parts me from you!"
18When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her,
she said no more to her.

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: PSALM 146

Readings continue on p. 264

Sunday between November 6 and 12 inclusive

PROPER 27

NOVEMBER 9, 1997 *NOVEMBER 12, 2000* *NOVEMBER 9, 2003*

FIRST READING: Ruth 3:1–5; 4:13–17

A reading from Ruth:

1Naomi said to Ruth,
"My daughter, I need to seek some security for you,
so that it may be well with you.
2Now here is our kinsman Boaz,
with whose young women you have been working.
See, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor.
3Now wash and anoint yourself,
and put on your best clothes and go down to the threshing floor;
but do not make yourself known to the man
until he has finished eating and drinking.
4When he lies down, observe the place where he lies;
then, go and uncover his feet and lie down;
and he will tell you what to do."
5She said to her, "All that you tell me I will do."

4:13So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife.
When they came together, the Lord made her conceive, and she bore a son.
14Then the women said to Naomi,
"Blessed be the Lord, who has not left you this day without next-of-kin;
and may his name be renowned in Israel!
15He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age;
for your daughter-in-law who loves you,
who is more to you than seven sons, has borne him."
16Then Naomi took the child and laid him in her bosom,
and became his nurse.
17The women of the neighborhood gave him a name, saying,
"A son has been born to Naomi."
They named him Obed; he became the father of Jesse, the father of David.

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 127

Readings continue on p. 266

Sunday between November 13 and 19 inclusive

PROPER 28

NOVEMBER 16, 1997 *NOVEMBER 19, 2000* *NOVEMBER 16, 2003*

FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 1:4–20

A reading from First Samuel:

4On the day when Elkanah sacrificed,
he would give portions to his wife Peninnah and to all her sons and daughters;
5but to Hannah he gave a double portion, because he loved her,
though the Lord had closed her womb.
6Her rival used to provoke her severely,
to irritate her, because the Lord had closed her womb.
7So it went on year by year;
as often as she went up to the house of the Lord, she used to provoke her.
Therefore Hannah wept and would not eat.
8Her husband Elkanah said to her,
"Hannah, why do you weep? Why do you not eat?
Why is your heart sad? Am I not more to you than ten sons?"

9After they had eaten and drunk at Shiloh,
Hannah rose and presented herself before the Lord.
Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat beside the doorpost of the temple of the Lord.
10She was deeply distressed and prayed to the Lord, and wept bitterly.
11She made this vow: "O Lord of hosts,
if only you will look on the misery of your servant,
and remember me, and not forget your servant,
but will give to your servant a male child,
then I will set him before you as a nazirite until the day of his death.
He shall drink neither wine nor intoxicants,
and no razor shall touch his head."

12As she continued praying before the Lord,
Eli observed her mouth.
13Hannah was praying silently; only her lips moved,
but her voice was not heard;
therefore Eli thought she was drunk.
14So Eli said to her,
"How long will you make a drunken spectacle of yourself?

Put away your wine."
15But Hannah answered,
"No, my lord, I am a woman deeply troubled;
I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink,
but I have been pouring out my soul before the LORD.
16Do not regard your servant as a worthless woman,
for I have been speaking out of my great anxiety and vexation all this time."
17Then Eli answered, "Go in peace;
the God of Israel grant the petition you have made to him."
18And she said, "Let your servant find favor in your sight."
Then the woman went to her quarters, ate and drank with her husband,
and her countenance was sad no longer.

19They rose early in the morning and worshiped before the LORD;
then they went back to their house at Ramah.
Elkanah knew his wife Hannah, and the LORD remembered her.
20In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son.
She named him Samuel,
for she said, "I have asked him of the LORD."

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: 1 SAMUEL 2:1–10

Readings continue on p. 269

Christ the King

Last Sunday after Pentecost†

PROPER 29

NOVEMBER 23, 1997 *NOVEMBER 26, 2000* *NOVEMBER 23, 2003*

FIRST READING: 2 Samuel 23:1–7

A reading from Second Samuel:

[1]Now these are the last words of David:
The oracle of David, son of Jesse,
the oracle of the man whom God exalted,
the anointed of the God of Jacob,
the favorite of the Strong One of Israel:

[2]The spirit of the Lord speaks through me,
his word is upon my tongue.
[3]The God of Israel has spoken,
the Rock of Israel has said to me:
One who rules over people justly,
ruling in the fear of God,
[4]is like the light of morning,
like the sun rising on a cloudless morning,
gleaming from the rain on the grassy land.
[5]Is not my house like this with God?
For he has made with me an everlasting covenant,
ordered in all things and secure.
Will he not cause to prosper
all my help and my desire?
[6]But the godless are all like thorns that are thrown away;
for they cannot be picked up with the hand;
[7]to touch them one uses an iron bar
or the shaft of a spear.
And they are entirely consumed in fire on the spot.

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 132:1–12 [13–18]

Readings continue on p. 272

†*Sunday between November 20 and 26 inclusive*

Appendix B

Readings from the Apocryphal Books

Second Sunday after Christmas

JANUARY 5, 1997 *JANUARY 2, 2000* *JANUARY 5, 2003*

FIRST READING: Sirach 24:1–12

A reading from Sirach:

[1]Wisdom praises herself,
and tells of her glory in the midst of her people.
[2]In the assembly of the Most High she opens her mouth,
and in the presence of his hosts she tells of her glory:

[3]"I came forth from the mouth of the most High,
and covered the earth like a mist.
[4]I dwelt in the highest heavens,
and my throne was in a pillar of cloud.
[5]Alone I compassed the vault of heaven
and traversed the depths of the abyss.
[6]Over waves of the sea, over all the earth,
and over every people and nation I have held sway."
[7]Among all these I sought a resting place;
in whose territory should I abide?

[8]"Then the Creator of all things gave me a command,
and my Creator chose the place for my tent.
He said, 'Make your dwelling in Jacob,
and in Israel receive your inheritance.'
[9]Before the ages, in the beginning, he created me,
and for all the ages I shall not cease to be.
[10]In the holy tent I ministered before him,
and so I was established in Zion.

[11]"Thus in the beloved city he gave me a resting place,
and in Jerusalem was my domain.
[12]I took root in an honored people,
in the portion of the Lord, his heritage."

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Wisdom of Solomon 10:15–21

Readings continue on p. 30

The Resurrection of Our Lord
Vigil of Easter

MARCH 29, 1997 APRIL 22, 2000 APRIL 19, 2003

SIXTH READING: Baruch 3:9–15, 32—4:4

A reading from Baruch:

9 Hear the commandments of life, O Israel;
give ear, and learn wisdom!
10 Why is it, O Israel, why is it that you are in the land of your enemies,
that you are growing old in a foreign country,
that you are defiled with the dead,
11 that you are counted among those in Hades?
12 You have forsaken the fountain of wisdom.
13 If you had walked in the way of God,
you would be living in peace forever.
14 Learn where there is wisdom,
where there is strength,
where there is understanding,
so that you may at the same time discern
where there is length of days, and life,
where there is light for the eyes, and peace.

15 Who has found her place?
And who has entered her storehouses?

32 But the one who knows all things knows her,
he found her by his understanding.
The one who prepared the earth for all time
filled it with four-footed creatures;
33 the one who sends forth the light, and it goes;
he called it, and it obeyed him, trembling;
34 the stars shone in their watches, and were glad;
he called them, and they said, "Here we are!"
They shone with gladness for him who made them.
35 This is our God;
no other can be compared to him.
36 He found the whole way to knowledge,
and gave her to his servant Jacob
and to Israel, whom he loved.
37 Afterward she appeared on earth
and lived with humankind.

4:1She is the book of the commandments of God,
the law that endures forever.
All who hold her fast will live,
and those who forsake her will die.
2Turn, O Jacob, and take her;
walk toward the shining of her light.
3Do not give your glory to another,
or your advantages to an alien people.
4Happy are we, O Israel,
for we know what is pleasing to God.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSE: PSALM 19

Readings continue on p. 137

Sunday between June 26 and July 2 inclusive

PROPER 8

JUNE 29, 1997 *JULY 2, 2000* *JUNE 29, 2003*

FIRST READING: Wisdom of Solomon 1:13–15; 2:23–24

A reading from the Wisdom of Solomon:

13 God did not make death,
and he does not delight in the death of the living.
14 For he created all things so that they might exist;
the generative forces of the world are wholesome,
and there is no destructive poison in them,
and the dominion of Hades is not on earth.
15 For righteousness is immortal.

2:23 For God created us for incorruption,
and made us in the image of his own eternity,
24 but through the devil's envy death entered the world,
and those who belong to his company experience it.

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 30

Readings continue on p. 206

Sunday between September 18 and 24 inclusive

PROPER 20

SEPTEMBER 21, 1997 *SEPTEMBER 24, 2000* *SEPTEMBER 21, 2003*

FIRST READING: Wisdom of Solomon 1:16—2:1, 12–22

A reading from the Wisdom of Solomon:

16The ungodly by their words and deeds summoned death;
considering him a friend, they pined away
and made a covenant with him,
because they are fit to belong to his company.
2:1For they reasoned unsoundly, saying to themselves,
"Short and sorrowful is our life,
and there is no rememdy when a life comes to its end,
and no one has been known to return from Hades.

12"Let us lie in wait for the righteous man,
because he is inconvenient to us and opposes our actions;
he reproaches us for sins against the law,
and accuses us of sins against our training.
13He professes to have knowledge of God,
and calls himself a child of the Lord.
14He became to us a reproof of our thoughts;
15the very sight of him is a burden to us,
because his manner of life is unlike that of others,
and his ways are strange.
16We are considered by him as something base,
and he avoids our ways as unclean;
he calls the last end of the righteous happy,
and boasts that God is his father.
17Let us see if his words are true,
and let us test what will happen at the end of his life;
18for if the righteous man is God's child, he will help him,
and will deliver him from the hand of his adversaries.
19Let us test him with insult and torture,
so that we may find out how gentle he is,
and make trial of his forbearance.
20Let us condemn him to a shameful death,
for, according to what he says, he will be protected."

[21]Thus they reasoned, but they were led astray,
for their wickedness blinded them,
[22]and they did not know the secret purposes of God,
nor hoped for the wages of holiness,
nor discerned the prize for blameless souls.

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: PSALM 54

Readings continue on p. 245

All Saints Day

NOVEMBER 1

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY: NOVEMBER 2, 1997 NOVEMBER 5, 2000 NOVEMBER 2, 2003

FIRST READING: Wisdom of Solomon 3:1–9

A reading from the Wisdom of Solomon:

[1]The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God,
and no torment will ever touch them.
[2]In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died,
and their departure was thought to be a disaster,
[3]and their going from us to be their destruction;
but they are at peace.

[4]For though in the sight of others they were punished,
their hope is full of immortality.
[5]Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good,
because God tested them and found them worthy of himself;
[6]like gold in the furnace he tried them,
and like a sacrificial burnt offering he accepted them.

[7]In the time of their visitation they will shine forth,
and will run like sparks through the stubble.
[8]They will govern nations and rule over peoples,
and the Lord will reign over them forever.
[9]Those who trust in him will understand truth,
and the faithful will abide with him in love,
because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones,
and he watches over his elect.

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 24

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